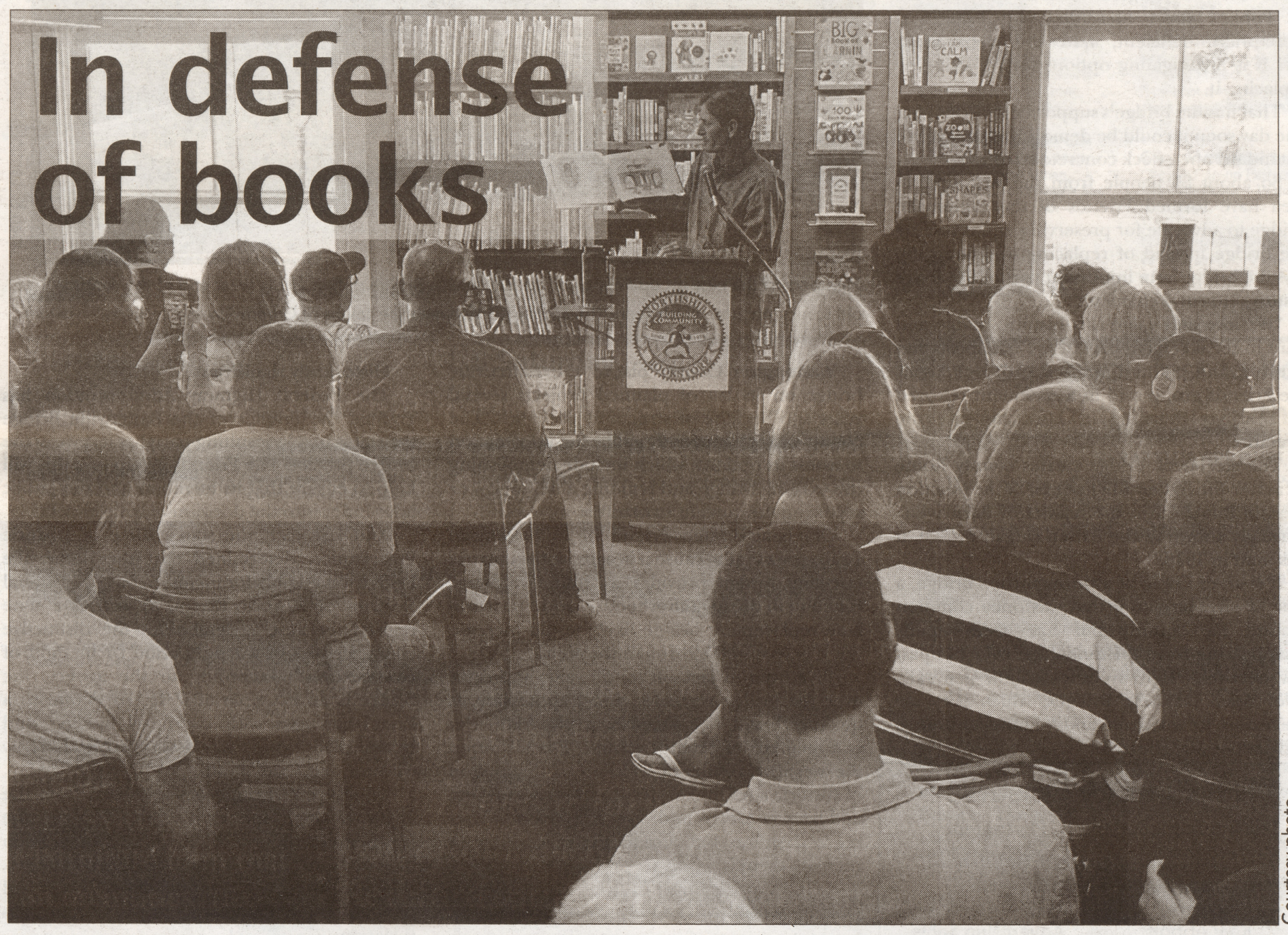
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The independent newspaper of eastern New York, southwestern Vermont and the Berkshires

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In defense of books



Courtesy photo

Some in region push back against banning efforts in schools and libraries

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Banding together for a bridge

Group aims to preserve a century-old span over the Batten Kill

By JOHN TOWNES
Contributing writer

GREENWICH, N.Y.

Some neighbors of the old steel truss bridge in the hamlet of Battenville are rallying to save it.

The one-lane bridge has spanned the Batten Kill, connecting the towns of Greenwich and Jackson, for more than a century. But in recent years the Washington County Department of Public Works identified the bridge as structurally deficient, and the department says it is investigating options for repairing or replacing it.

That has the bridge's supporters worried that one day soon it could be demolished in favor of a standard open-deck concrete structure.

So about 25 people from the surrounding area have formed Friends of the Battenville Bridge to advocate for preserving and repairing the bridge instead of replacing it. The group says the bridge is an important part of the area's history and rural character.

"We love and value this historic bridge and want to see it remain part of the transportation network and cultural landscape of our area," the Friends group said in a statement released in February detailing its effort to save the structure.

The steel-deck bridge carries county Route 61 across the Batten Kill just east of the junction of state Route 29 in the hamlet of Battenville. Formally known as the Batten-Dugan Bridge, it was built in 1916.

It is an example of a through-truss bridge, a type of steel structure that was once common around the country but has been rapidly disappearing from the landscape over the past few decades. Highway officials now generally favor open concrete bridges, which they say are easier to maintain and remove clearance restrictions for tall trucks.



Joan K. Lentini photo

Members of the new group Friends of the Battenville Bridge gather at the west end of the century-old steel structure, which spans the Batten Kill between the towns of Greenwich and Jackson.

Washington County placed the Battenville bridge on its list of planned projects several years ago because of structural problems. The county says it is currently gathering information to assess its options, which include demolishing the existing bridge and building a new one – or repairing the current structure.

One issue is safety. Friends of the Battenville Bridge says that because it is narrow, the current one-lane bridge provides a "traffic calming" function in the neighborhood — and that a two-lane replacement bridge likely would increase the speed of traffic through the area.

"I've lived in Jackson for 25 years and drive over the bridge regularly, and I appreciate its qualities," said Lee Shapiro, a physician who is a member of Friends group. "I've also seen the negative results of widespread demolition of historic sites in New Jersey, where I grew up, and later in Albany and Troy. People often later regret their loss, but once they're gone you can't recreate them."

Historically significant

The Federal Highway Administration has granted the Friends of the Battenville Bridge the status of a "consulting party" as it reviews the bridge project. The Friends group says this will help to ensure that its members and the public have input into the decision-making process.

And last year, the state Office of Historic Preservation determined that the Battenville Bridge was eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, as well as a state registry, because it "embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction." According to the agency, the bridge is an example of a design known as a Pratt thru-truss with overhead bracing and bridge plate, which was developed in 1844 by Thomas and Caleb Pratt.

This style of bridge was prevalent from the 1840s through the early 20th century. The bridges initially were built with a combination of wood and iron trusses; in latter decades, they were constructed completely with iron and later steel. The design also inspired numerous variations.

The Friends group points out that a provision of federal transportation law favors preservation of historic structures if it is "reasonable and prudent" to do so.

Projects like the repair or replacement of the Battenville bridge normally must undergo review by local, regional, state and federal officials with an opportunity for public input. The review process includes detailed studies of

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Although the county owns the bridge, its repair or replacement will rely on federal funding, which makes the project subject to requirements of the Federal Highway Administration and the National Historic Preservation Act.

Deteriorating structure

Deborah Donahue, the Washington County superintendent of public works, said the bridge was placed on her department's list of projects because it has serious problems that must be addressed.

She explained that the state mandates inspection every other year of bridges and culverts that are more than 20 feet long.

"They examine the condition of the structures and determine whether deterioration has occurred," she said. "When they find a problem, it is marked with the designation of a yellow flag. During these inspections, that bridge has received four yellow flags."

These findings are particularly critical for the Battenville bridge because of the interdependent nature of its structure and design, she said.

"In that type of bridge, all of its components work together and rely on each other," she said. "So we have to pay particular attention to any element that has a yellow flag because that can affect the safety and stability of the entire bridge."

The county included replacement of the bridge on the list of proposed projects it submits to the Adirondack Glens Falls Transportation Council, a regional planning group prioritizes projects for federal funding. The council updates its list of area road and bridge projects every two years to determine which ones qualify to move forward with funding from the federal Transportation Improvement Program.

Washington County had identified the need for bridge work at Battenville in a previous round, and it has carried over into the funding cycle covering 2022-27. As part of the process, the county hired a consultant to study the bridge in detail. That study is now under way.

"Based on their research, they will draw up a list of options that are available, and the costs and the pros and cons of each," Donahue said. "They will also recommend a preferred option."

Keeping the bridge open

Donahue said the process of determining the ultimate plan for the bridge will include public input, the historic status of the bridge and the possibility of repairing it or pursuing other solutions.

Although the state preservation officials concluded that demolition of the current bridge would constitute an adverse impact under the National Historic Preservation Act, the state did not say it must be preserved in its current role. Other options it cited include potential relocation of the bridge or conversion to pedestrian use.

Friends of the Battenville Bridge, however, supports repairing the bridge and opposes any change in its current use.

"We have a local bridge for vehicular traffic," the group said in its February statement. "It should remain in its original locational context and continue with its regular and historic use."

The group contends that replacing the current bridge with a two-lane structure would speed up traffic through the area, making the area less safe — particularly for a local community of Amish farmers who travel in horse-drawn carriages.

Shapiro pointed out that the bridge is near several historic sites that are being preserved, including the Thomas McLean home, Susan B. Anthony's childhood home, and Stoops Hotel, all of which are listed on the state and national historic registers, as well as the historic Battenville Cemetery just east of the bridge.

"The bridge is an important part of a setting with multiple structures of historic value," Shapiro said. "Among other benefits, this is bringing more attention to this area and creates the potential to become a destination for tourism."

Donahue said transportation officials will consider these and other issues in the months ahead.

"Ultimately our job is to ensure that people can travel safely on our roads and bridges and do that in a cost-effective way," she said. "We're going to weigh everyone's opinions on this and hope that we can find a solution that is acceptable to all parties involved."

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In defense of books

Some in region push back against banning efforts in schools and libraries

By KATE ABBOTT
Contributing writer



Courtesy photo

Vermont Lt. Gov. David Zuckerman reads to an audience at Northshire Bookstore in Manchester, one of a series of stops he made around the state in recent months as part of his Banned Book Tour.

On a clear winter night, in an art studio founded by Bennington College alums, Vermont Lt. Gov. David Zuckerman was reading aloud from Toni Morrison's "Beloved."

Morrison was a Nobel laureate, and her novel earned the Pulitzer Prize in fiction in 1988. For Zuckerman, she tells a powerful story of the experiences of people who have lived with courage in the face of deep pain.

Sethe, a grandmother, talks with a group of enslaved people at a gathering in the woods: "In this here place, we flesh; flesh that weeps, laughs; flesh that dances on bare feet in grass. Love it. Love it hard."

"She speaks about how these people, many born into slavery, must love themselves, because the former slave masters will not," Zuckerman explained. "It's a powerful scene, and one that students and everyone in America should have the ability to read."

"Beloved" is known for its deep storytelling and understanding of the lives of emancipated, formerly enslaved people, he said.

"It is a beautiful and, at times, disturbing book that helped me, as a high school student, have a better understanding of the human impact slavery has had," Zuckerman said. "It has also been the subject of several bans."

Morrison has faced challenges to her books for decades, even as she has been one of the most-read writers in colleges across the nation.

Zuckerman shared her novel as he traveled around Vermont in the latter half of 2023 and early 2024 on a "Banned Book Tour," holding community conversations in libraries and bookstores.

While he was reading aloud in Vermont, in the Berkshires the threat of banning books suddenly became more than an abstract national debate.

In December, a complaint to town police in Great Barrington resulted in an officer being dispatched to a classroom at the W.E.B. Du Bois Regional Middle School — to search for a copy of an award-winning memoir that is available at more than 100 libraries across central and western Massachusetts alone.

The Dec. 8 incident in Great Barrington set off a wave of questions and criticism in the community – and from state and national organizations including the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts as well as from elected officials including Massachusetts Gov. Maury Healey.

A rise in bans — and resistance

The discussion of book banning — or restricting the rights of teachers to use certain books, or the rights of librarians to stock particular books — has grown more prevalent in recent years, Zuckerman said.

Around the nation, a loose network of conservative activists has tried to remove thousands of books from he shelves of schools and libraries, often in the name of "parental rights."

Last month, the American Library Association announced that it had documented efforts to censor 4,240 unique book titles in 2023 — the largest number of book challenges ever recorded in a single year and a 65 percent increase from the 2,571 titles that were targeted in 2022. Public libraries saw a 92 percent increase in censorship requests last year, with an 11 percent increase at school libraries.

In response, movements are growing around the region to strengthen freedom of expression and the right of individuals to choose what they read and what they learn.

In Massachusetts, state Rep. Frank Moran, D-Lawrence, and state Sen. Julian Cyr, D-Truro have introduced companion bills in Legislature that would affirm schools' and libraries' authority to choose the books in their collections, set guidelines for book challenges and protect teachers and librarians as they do their jobs.

"Five years ago, no one would think a librarian would be under such scrutiny," said state Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier, D-Pittsfield, a petitioner for Moran's bill in the House.

As a former teacher, Farley-Bouvier said she empathizes with the pressures the Covid-19

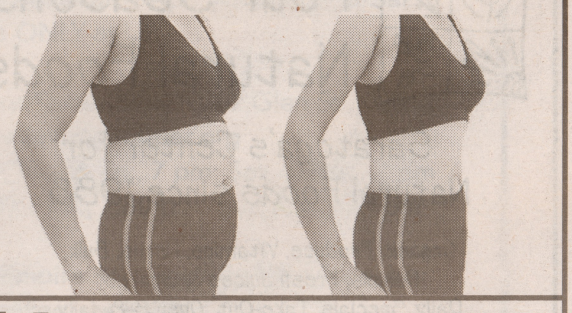
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pandemic brought to bear on parents, who have become responsible for more of their children's day-to-day education since schools closed and went virtual during the pandemic – and on teachers who have had to adapt to a rapidly changing environment.

But teachers and librarians are trained professionals who have the experience, knowledge and responsibility to choose the books on their shelves, she said, and conversations about the selection of books and materials should happen within schools and libraries and their boards.

National debate, local voices

In Vermont, Zuckerman's Banned Book Tour has spurred community conversations about freedom of thought in town centers around the state. The idea for the tour came to mind a year ago, he said, as he saw news reports of book challenges in many states.

"It was becoming a major topic of conversation, not just in some of these Southern states but … all across the country," he said.

"What's even more disturbing to me," Zuckerman wrote in an op-ed this winter, "is that this national trend seems to be the result of a relatively small group of people, with an agenda, who do not represent the opinion of the majority of Americans or Vermonters.

"In the 2021-22 school year, just 11 adults were responsible for approximately 60 percent of all challenges nationwide. Meanwhile, a large majority of voters oppose efforts to have books removed from their public schools and libraries."

Now, in a presidential election year, he sees the conversation deepening as debates grow around artificial intelligence, deep fakes and false information.

"In the context of our current free speech conversations," he said over Zoom from his office in Montpelier, "manipulated information conversations are seen regularly in the media, around elections and election fraud or even facts and stories about immigration.

"The range of disinformation is getting so great that I thought a civic conversation at the community level focused on this issue around critical thinking, education and books could be a very important topic."

Berkshire book challenge

In Great Barrington, the topic has come close to home. According to a report released in February from an independent investigation commissioned by the Berkshire Hills Regional School District, a night custodian at the Du Bois middle school complained to town police about a book he had seen in a school classroom.

"The person who made the complaint here never talked with the school," Farley-Bouvier said. "The book in question is at libraries across the state. If the professionals had sent the complaint to the right person, it could have ended there."

The book was Maia Kobabe's award-winning memoir "Gender Queer," which explores the writer's own sense of mind and body and experiences in coming of age.

According to the regional library consortium CW MARS, more than 100 libraries in central and western Massachusetts have copies of the book, many shelved in the young adults section. The book is readily available at local bookstores and online. It also has been a top target of book-banning groups around the country.

According to the school district's report, the teacher whose classroom was the subject of the police search served as an adviser to the student-run Gender-Sexuality Alliance at the school. The teacher kept "Gender Queer" with other books related to the group's interests and experiences, and students could request to borrow them.

The report does not name the teacher, and local news organizations have honored the teacher's request not to be identified because of safety concerns.

Because the teacher has taken temporary paid leave, the school has paused meetings of its LGBTQ affinity groups, and Berkshire nonprofits have stepped in to offer support for students. The Great Barrington nonprofit Multicultural BRIDGE has been working with the schools since December, said its founder and chief executive Gwendolyn Van Sant, as have Railroad Street Youth Project and Berkshire Pride.

Within days of the police search at the middle school, more than 100 students held a walkout in solidarity with the teacher and in protest against the school's initial response.

Parents in the Berkshire Hills Regional School District have formed a new group, Berkshires Against Book Banning, and have spoken out at school board and selectboard meetings in support of the teacher and students.

"This issue isn't about a specific book," the group writes in an open letter to Superintendent Peter Dillon, Principal Miles Wheat and the school community. "It is about how the district treats attempts to ban books. Banning books makes our kids less safe."

Police response draws protest

The decision of town police to dispatch a plain-clothes investigator to the school, and the school officials' decision to allow the officer to search a classroom for a book, both have drawn criticism locally and statewide.

"What occurred was unwarranted and unauthorized by law," the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts and GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders wrote to the town. "Contrary to your defenses of what occurred, under the laws of the Commonwealth, no criminal investigation was warranted. Your officers should have advised the complainant to raise their concerns with the school."

After looking into the issue more thoroughly in the days after the search, Berkshire District Attorney Timothy Shugrue agreed that it would have been appropriate for any questions about the book to be handled by school officials, rather than law enforcement, and Great Barrington Police Chief Paul Storti offered a public apology for his department's handling of the complaint.

But the ACLU expressed concern for the chilling effect these actions had on students and teachers — and not only in Great Barrington.

On Jan. 31, the Great Barrington Selectboard voted to hire an independent investigator to review the police department's response. The results of that inquiry were not yet available as of late March.

The new legislation Farley-Bouvier supports would reaffirm that a book challenge needs to move through the school and school board or library and library board, rather than through law enforcement agents.

"I do believe in age-appropriate books and materials and curricula, inside and outside the classroom," she added. "Age-appropriateness is important. But it shouldn't be mixed with a discussion about censorship."

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- from Pittsfield: 1 hour, 30 minutes
- from Saratoga Springs: 45 minutes
- from Williamstown: 1 hour

See map on page 11

The power of storytelling

Graphic novels like Kobabe's, with a story or memoir told with images, can be incredibly powerful for changing people's perspectives, said JV Hampton-VanSant, the information technology director for Multicultural BRIDGE.

These books, she explained, help readers to understand people's lived experiences that are different from their own.

"When I was in middle school, and I was reading books from the same exact library," she said, "I read 'Maus' and 'Persepolis' as graphic novels without any kind of warning or context. I just read them. They have some strong imagery."

"Maus," Art Spiegelman's Pulitzer Prize-winning biography, follows his father's experiences in the Holocaust. "Persepolis," Marjane Satrapi's memoir, tells stories of her childhood in Iran during the Islamic Revolution.

Both moved her strongly, Van Sant said.

"And we were watching coverage of the Twin Towers falling too, in school," she rccalled. "Kids can handle a lot of things, … and I credit those graphic novels as the first time I understood that I'm an illustrator."

Hampton-VanSant is a teacher of youth leaders and president of Berkshire Stonewall Community Coalition. Through BRIDGE's community and educational programming, she has worked with children for many years as a mentor and leader of summer programs.

She said she has had young people thank her for being a role model and a presence in their lives as a Black trans woman. And as a student, she said, she would have valued "Gender Queer" and having the space to read it.

"Knowing the kids have a teacher who is a safe person, who has gone out of their way to make sure a book like this is there, that's amazing," she said. "And that's a teacher I want to support — a teacher doing a lot of work outside the resources the school can provide, a teacher the kids love and want to have return."

"As a person who would have benefitted from reading that exact book at that exact time," she added, "it would have saved me so much time and heartache."

Hampton-VanSant expressed concern that the police search and the events that followed have harmed students, the teacher and the wider community.

People who are strongly in favor of book banning can often come from a desire to control ideas, Van Sant said, adding that she finds this movement especially concerning when its message is, "We just don't want these people to exist or history to reflect that their past has existed."

Spaces for learning, exploring

One key issue when someone challenges a school or library's choice of books is to re-hone conversations in a place where people can listen without fear or angers, said Alex Reczkowski, director of the Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield.

At the Pittsfield library, Reczkowski said, patrons can always ask about a book and have a conversation with someone on the staff. They can make a request for a formal reconsideration of a book on the shelf, which would go to the library's director and trustees. But conversation, he said, is key — having the space and time to listen to concerns and talk about why the library has chosen a book.

continued on page 10

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See map on page 11

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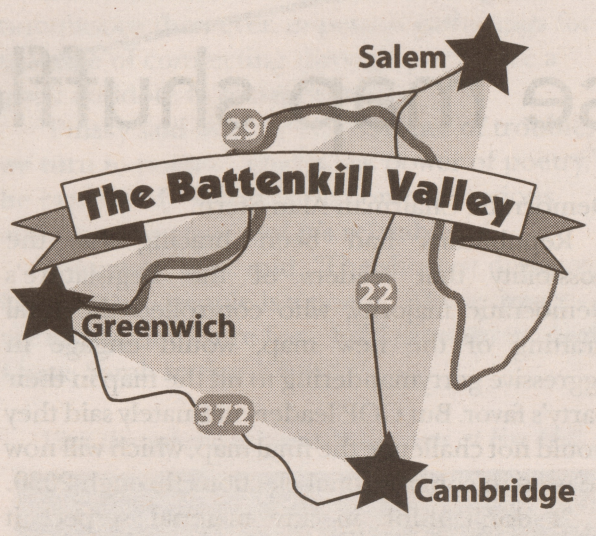
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See map on page 11

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NEWS & ISSUES

New U.S. House map shuffles area towns

Final redistricting plan splits Saratoga and Rensselaer counties

By MAURY THOMPSON
Contributing writer

Voters in northern Saratoga County and nearly all of Rensselaer County will find themselves in new congressional districts when they head to the polls this year, thanks to a revised political map that New York Gov. Kathy Hochul signed into law on Feb. 28.

The new map is the end result of months of partisan wrangling and legal challenges that began two years ago when the boundaries of the state's U.S. House districts were last redrawn based on 2020 U.S. census data.

But while the changes may cause confusion for some area voters, the consensus of nonpartisan analysts as well as area Democratic and Republican leaders is that the new map won't significantly change the competitiveness of area House races.

Nor is it expected to substantially shift the state's political playing field in a year when New York's swing districts could play a big role in determining whether Republicans retain their razor-thin majority in the House.

"It was a long and convoluted process to get to the same place," said Washington County Democratic Chairman Alan Stern.

Republicans had been bracing for the possibility that leaders of the Legislature's Democratic majority, who controlled the final drafting of the new map, would engage in aggressive gerrymandering to tilt the map in their party's favor. But GOP leaders ultimately said they would not challenge the final map, which will now be used in congressional elections through 2030.

"I don't think in any material respect it changes the political realities in any district," said John Faso, a lawyer and former congressman from Kinderhook who advised Republicans on redistricting litigation.

Locally, the new map shifts northern Saratoga County, which since 2022 has been part of the 20th Congressional District now represented by Rep. Paul Tonko, D-Amsterdam, into the 21st district represented by Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-Schuylerville.

And the bulk of Rensselaer County, which had been part of the 21st district for the past two years, will now be divided between the 20th district and the 19th district, which currently is represented by Rep. Marcus Molinaro, R-Catskill.

Across the state, the new map still leaves three House seats now held by Republicans, including Molinaro's, that are rated as tossups in this year's election by the nonpartisan Cook Political Report. Based on the new district lines, the Cook report's analysts changed their rating only for the Syracuse-area seat of GOP Rep. Brandon Williams, which had been considered a tossup and is now rated as one Democrats are slightly favored to win.

Two years, many maps

The legal battles that led to New York's newest congressional map began in 2022, the first year the state's political maps were supposed to be drawn by the new Independent Redistricting Commission, which was created by a constitutional amendment voters approved in 2014.

After Democrats and Republican on the new panel deadlocked and produced two separate maps, the Legislature took charge and adopted a map that was widely seen as maximizing the potential for Democrats to win more seats.

Republicans successfully challenged the Legislature's map in court, and a state Supreme Court justice appointed an independent expert to draw a new map that emphasized the creation of more competitive districts. That map was used for the 2022 election – and Republicans benefited. After the 2022 vote, the GOP wound up controlling 11 of the state's 26 House seats, compared with 8 of 27 seats previously. (The state lost one seat based on 2020 census data.)

Last year, Democrats prevailed in court when they argued that the redistricting expert's maps were only intended to be effective for the 2022 election cycle. That set the stage for a new round of redistricting.

On Feb. 15, the bipartisan redistricting commission, by a 9-1 vote, approved a "compromise" plan that made only minor changes to the 2022 map. Then the Legislature rejected the commission's plan and adopted its own, but its version made only minor adjustments to what the commission had recommended.

Faso said the Legislature avoided going too far because Democrats were afraid of continued litigation by Republicans.

"That was a credible threat," he said.

But Hank Sheinkopf, a Democratic political strategist in New York City, said it was not so much fear of litigation, but instead a fear of voter backlash, that prompted legislative Democrats to tread lightly in revising the district lines.

Sheinkopf said Hakeem Jeffries, the leader of the Democratic minority in the U.S. House, was concerned that lingering controversy over redistricting would overshadow other issues in this year's congressional elections.

"There's only so far one can go," he said.

Handicapping a new map

Voter enrollment statistics for the new congressional districts had not yet been released

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as of March 20, but a variety of political leaders and independent analysts predicted that the new map will not by itself change the political calculus in this year's congressional races.

"New York has more competitive districts than any other state," Faso said.

The Associated Press concluded that the new map gave Democrats "a slight edge" overall when compared with the 2022 map.

But ABC News concluded, based on voting patterns in the 2020 presidential election, that the latest congressional map flipped the partisan tilt in only one of the state's 26 congressional districts — the 1st district on Long Island. There, the 2022 configuration of the district would have supported President Biden by 0.02 percentage points, while the newly configured district would have supported Donald Trump by 2 points.

By this measure, no district had a change in voting patterns of more than 4 percentage points as a result of the latest redistricting.

Locally, in the 19th district, where Molinaro is the incumbent, Biden would have won by 5 percentage points under the 2022 boundaries compared with 4 points under the new boundaries.

Molinaro's district was redrawn to exclude Tioga County, while taking in larger portions of Otsego and Herkimer counties as well as the Rensselaer County municipalities of East Greenbush, Grafton, Nassau, Petersburgh, Schodack, Stephentown and most of Brunswick. The Cook Political Report still rates the 19th district, which stretches westward from Columbia County to Binghamton and Ithaca, as a toss-up seat.

Faso, who represented an earlier version of the 19th district in 2017-18, said the latest changes do not substantially change its competitiveness.

And Sheinkopf, the Democratic strategist, said the change is not enough to deter Democrats from targeting Molinaro.

"The Democrats are probably going to drop a lot of money into that district," he said.

Democrat Josh Riley, a lawyer from the Southern Tier who lost to Molinaro in 2022, is running again.

Tonko, Stefanik stay safe

The reshaped 20th Congressional District, where Tonko is the incumbent, retains a significant Democratic advantage.

Under both the 2022 boundaries and its new configuration, Biden would have carried the district by 19 percentage points based on his vote tallies from four years ago.

This year, Alexander Dubois and Jonathan Locke are seeking the Republican nomination in the 20th district, while Democrats Mason Brown and Emmanuel Jorge-Garcia, a chemical

continued on page 12



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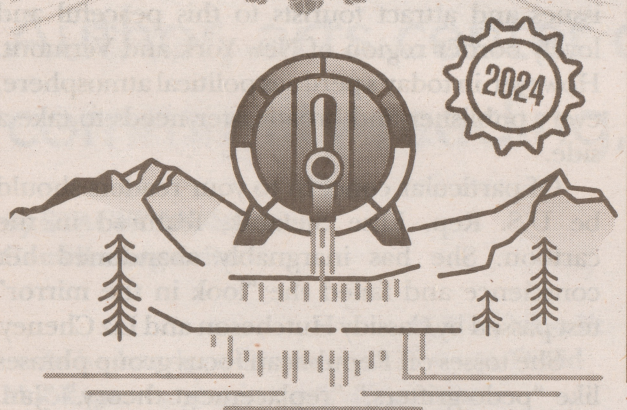
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Book bans *continued from page 6*

"Not every book is right for every reader," he said. "But every book can have its reader. … A library's collection should reflect the community, and our community is changing. We have more native Spanish speakers, and so we have a growing Spanish collection."

Librarians have a sense of what people in the community are looking for, he said, from conversations at the front desk and the requests and the holds people place.

Both he and Zuckerman said they found it strange that adults would express alarm about a book in an era when so many children and teenagers have smart phones, tablets and the Internet in their hands. A child online, they said, will have broad access to information and stories in many media, often without a librarian, teacher or other knowledgeable adult to moderate or help them understand the context or meaning of what they're reading or watching.

Dawn Jardine, who became the new director of the Great Barrington Libraries in January, said she sees libraries as a space for open exploration and creativity – a place where people can see themselves reflected as they look out into a wider world.

Respecting parents' rights

Zuckerman said it's important to respect the rights of parents who want to set limits on children's reading material or their own standard for what they believe is age-appropriate.

"People have a right to their feelings, and they don't have to have their kid read a book," he said. "At least in Vermont, until you're 16, a parent can say to a teacher or librarian, 'I don't want my child to have that book.' But it's about whether you have a right to drive other children out of access to a book. And who makes that decision?"

Talking about these questions as he has toured Vermont has led to frank exchanges that he found fascinating and hopeful, Zuckerman added.

"When I speak at these events and answer questions, I actually prefer when there's a diversity of opinions in the audience," he said, "because then we can actually have an in-depth conversation about the different perspectives."

He remembered talking with a grandmother and her grandson, who was about 10. Coming from a religious background, the boy expressed a frustration: He heard his school often talking about pride, and from the Bible, he understood pride as being a sin.

Zuckerman said he responded that many words have more than one definition. In the Bible, he said, pride is boastful, carrying yourself through life as though everyone else is beneath you, while the pride taught in schools means you can be confident in who you are and whom you love.

Costs of censorship

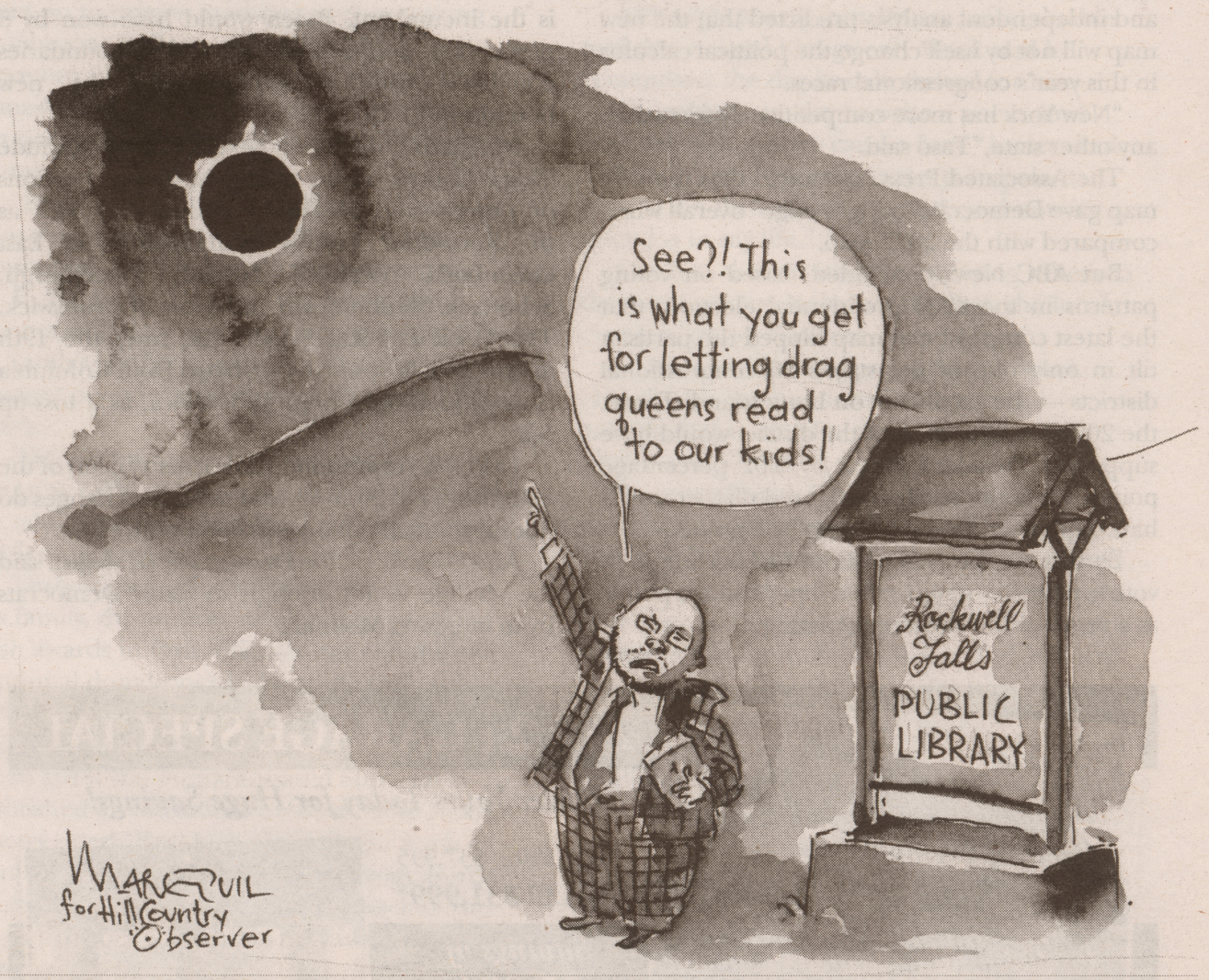
Zuckerman and Reczkowski said they have seen the movement to ban and restrict books rising in the past 5 to 10 years — at the same time as a much wider diversity of writers and stories are becoming available.

"A significant portion are books written by authors of color or nonbinary authors," Zuckerman said. "As we've seen a proliferation of a more diverse set of authors, we've seen book-banning go up.

"We've also seen the book-banning efforts particularly target books that deal with race and conflict and history. Generally, these books are fully factual, and they're just giving the facts of history."

Through his events, he has seen banned

continued on page 18



Letters to the editor

Yes, help Latin America, but stand with Ukraine

To the editor:

Tom King's letter in your February-March issue ["Help Southern Neighbors, Not Ukraine and Israel"] points out the importance of helping to make a better life for our neighbors in countries to our south. I don't see how any thinking or caring person could disagree.

His position on Ukraine, however, is terribly shortsighted. Yes, Putin and Russia are Ukraine's problem, but without help from us and other countries, Ukraine will be overrun and another flame of democracy will be extinguished. The critical point here is this: If Putin isn't stopped in Ukraine, when, where, how and at what cost will he be stopped?

By his own admission his goal is to re-establish as much of the old Soviet Union as he can. If he succeeds in Ukraine, it will confirm his belief that the NATO countries are weak and will lose interest and eventually back down. The Baltic countries and Poland are next in his sights, and that brings us and the other NATO countries terribly close to a major, costly war in which there would no resources available to help our southern neighbors.

A world where there are no more wars is a wonderful goal. But as long as there are powerful dictators such as Putin, we risk being dragged into wars of self-preservation. Mr. King rightfully points out the importance of history. So how can we possibly ignore the critical importance of stopping a dictator, bent on domination, as early as possible?

Putin is Ukraine's problem now. But if not stopped in Ukraine, he becomes our problem and the world's problem.

Frank May
East Nassau, N.Y.

Stefanik drops conscience, caters to extremists

To the editor:

Thank you for publishing the letter from Mr. Dundas ["Only indicted four times? Maybe he had a bad day"] and the editorial cartoon in your February-March issue.

In previous years, the *Hill Country Observer* could concentrate on local farming and business issues and attract tourists to this peaceful and lovely border region of New York and Vermont. However, in today's perilous political atmosphere, every publisher and broadcaster needs to take a side.

Of particular concern to your readers should be U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik, featured in the cartoon. She has inarguably abandoned her conscience and failed the "look in the mirror" test passed by Cassidy Hutcheson and Liz Cheney.

She tosses off Republican focus-group phrases like "pedo-grifters," "replacement theory," "Jan. 6th hostages," "border invasion" and "election interference" as easily as she used to speak about small government, strong defense, and low taxes. I'd like to believe that she doesn't believe what she is saying. With a degree from Harvard, she should be intelligent and thoughtful — and reject the hypocrisy, irrationality and cruelty that are the hallmarks of Trumpism.

But we should be afraid if she does believe what she is saying. It is apparent that she just doesn't care anymore about her oath to the Constitution and her duty to represent the concerns of all her constituents, not just a small minority of MAGA extremists.

Blinded by partisanship, she has lost sight of the common good. She is enabling those conspiring to destroy our fragile democracy, and that should frighten all voters in her district as well as the residents of southwestern Vermont.

Michael Kelley
Manchester Center, Vt.

From local pulpits, a push to banish gambling

Maury Thompson

The Rev. Sherman Williams, pastor of Glens Falls Methodist Episcopal Church, liked to watch horses trot — with one caveat.

"Personally, I very much enjoy a pure and simple horse race," Williams said in a sermon on Nov. 4, 1894. "But I have never attended a race where gambling and pool selling were the order of the day.

Williams delivered that message on the Sunday before New York voters went to the polls to decide whether to approve a new state constitution with language banning gambling.

Pool selling was a mechanism for betting on horse races without actually being present at the race. Pool-selling operations at racetracks often would handle bets on races taking place at other tracks. Gambling critics of the era argued that pool betting was a particularly addictive form of gambling.

Williams and other pastors who used their Sunday morning sermons to urge support for the new constitution said they weren't electioneering, just championing virtue.

Williams said banning gambling was a moral, not a partisan issue.

"When I read and when I am told of the various crimes that are a natural outgrowth of this form of gambling, I say I must cast my vote against it," Williams said, according to a Nov. 5 report in *The Morning Star* of Glens Falls.

No doubt the gambling provision was controversial in the Glens Falls area, where trotting-horse racing and breeding were prominent interests. Racing on the ice also was a wintertime attraction on Warren County lakes.

Horse breeders warned that banning gambling would wipe out opportunities for breeding racehorses in New York, leaving only the breeding of workhorses, which was a declining industry, *The New York Times* reported on Oct. 21, 1894.

It was the second consecutive Sunday that Williams had preached in support of the anti-gambling amendment, as the revised constitution was commonly described.

In the Nov. 4 sermon, he chose as his text Matthew 7:24-27, "The Wise and Foolish Builders," with the wise building on a solid rock foundation and the foolish building on a risky foundation of sand.

"The permanency of a building is dependent largely upon the foundation," Williams explained. "It may be beautiful in architecture, its walls may be finely decorated, it may attract the attention of men, but if the building does not have on it a good foundation, it will not stand."

Williams said allowing gambling wrecked the foundation of society and ruined the lives of young gambling addicts.

"Some people say that if this amendment shall prevail that you will break up all the racetracks," Williams said. "Well, then, let them go. If a racetrack cannot live on its own merits, not much loss will be sustained by its abandonment."

Williams was not the only local pastor urging support of the anti-gambling amendment that Sunday.

The Rev. W. O. Stearns preached on the topic "Ballot Box Morals" at Glens Falls Baptist Church.

"From the apostolic precedent it becomes a duty to put religion into politics, and to put conscience into the ballot," he said. "The church and the pulpit may abstain from party politics for many and sufficient reasons, but all the more should they lay down the principles by which voting should be directed."

Stearns said the amendment "deserves the support of upright citizens."

The Rev. F. H. Pierce preached on the topic "Who is on the Lord's Side?" at the Glens Falls Society of Friends Church on Sunday morning and the South Glens Falls church on Sunday evening.

"The real reservoir out of which the force is to come to put down the greed of appetite and covetousness is a force resurrected in the church of Christ," he said.

Statewide, the new constitution passed by a vote of 410,697 to 327,462.

In Warren County, the vote was 1,870 in favor and 1,714 against, *The Morning Star* reported on Nov. 15.

There was debate over whether the anti-gambling amendment would actually curb betting.

"It remains to be seen whether the new constitution will reduce the number of raffles, grab bags, wheels of fortune, etc.," *The Morning Star* wrote in an editorial on Nov. 10. "There was a law against such gambling before, but it was not enforced."

When the current version of the New York Constitution was adopted in 1938, it retained

continued on page 18

News that's slow-brewed for a high-speed age

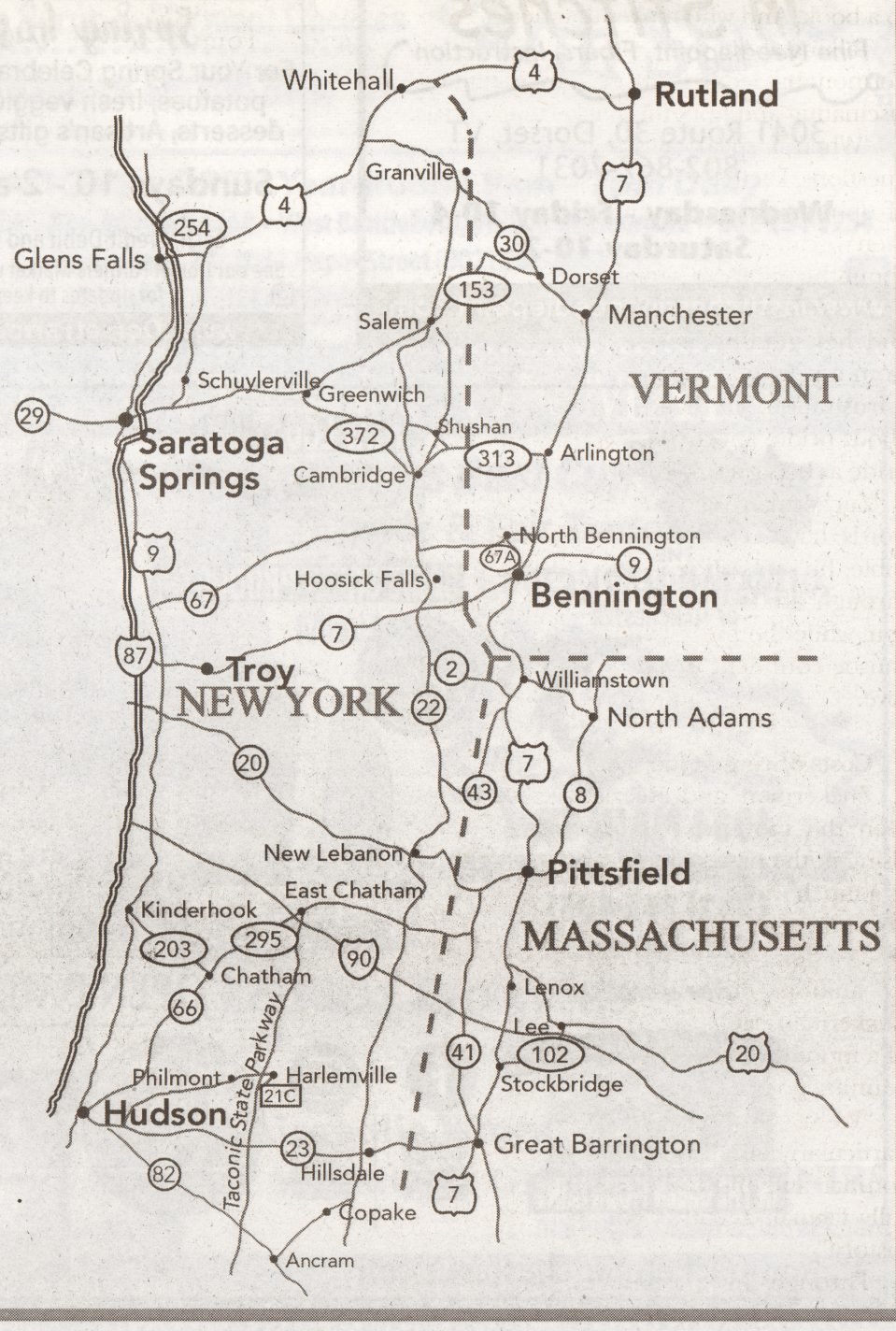
We're told we live in an information age, yet the traditional gathering of news is in decline.

Conventional news organizations are scaling back their efforts to ferret out the facts, even as they spread each factoid ever more widely via 24-hour broadcasts and the Internet. Is this the best way to keep you informed?

At the *Hill Country Observer*, we still take time to connect the dots, to put the news and issues of our region into a broader perspective. We only publish once a month, but we shine a light on stories and trends that aren't getting much attention elsewhere.

Judging from our growing circulation, readers like the results. Tell us what you think.

HILL COUNTRY observer



Redistricting *continued from page 9*

engineer, aim to challenge Tonko in a primary.

The new 20th district will include a larger portion of Rensselaer County as well as part of Montgomery County, including Tonko's hometown of Amsterdam. Rensselaer County municipalities in the new 20th district are Hoosick, Pittstown, Schaghticoke, North Greenbush and Troy.

At the same time, the Saratoga County towns of Hadley, Day, Edinburg, Providence, Greenfield, Moreau, Saratoga and Northumberland, as well as the northern half of Wilton, have been moved from the 20th district into the 21st district, where Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-Schuylerville, is the incumbent.

The hometowns of Stefanik, and Jill Lochner of Greenfield, who aims to challenge Stefanik in a Republican primary, are among the Saratoga County communities moved into the 21st district.

Voting patterns suggest an increased Republican advantage in the reconfigured 21st district.

Under its 2022 boundaries, Trump would have carried the district by 12 percentage points based on his 2020 performance. Within the new district lines, he would have carried it by 16 points.

The new 21st district no longer includes any towns in Rensselaer County, where Stefanik currently has a district office in East Greenbush.

Steven Holding, a retired Army colonel from Camilus, and Paula Collins, a cannabis tax lawyer who recently moved from Manhattan to Canton, are seeking the Democratic nomination to run in the 21st. The Working Families Party has endorsed Collins, and Scott Phillip Lewis of Lake Placid has announced plans to run as an independent.

Stern, the Washington County Democratic chairman, said he would have preferred a more significant redrawing of boundaries.

Stern said he testified at a recent Independent Redistricting Commission hearing that many residents of Warren and Washington counties work in either Saratoga or Rensselaer counties, and that Warren and Washington counties have more in common with counties to the south than

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"I just felt we would be better suited with [district] 20 instead of 21," he said.

Others have argued that Warren and Washington counties share with northern counties the unique challenges of being located in the Adirondack Park, although only three of Washington County's 17 towns lie at least partly within the park's boundary.

New calls for reform

Although many politicians expressed satisfaction that the new congressional districts don't significantly change the balance of power or the competitiveness of individual districts, public interest groups decried the process —especially the Legislature's decision to take over the final round of map-making.

The Legislature "has once again undermined the intent and promise of the constitutional amendment establishing the Independent Redistricting Commission," the League of Women Voters of New York State said in a press release.

Blair Horner, executive director of the New York Public Interest Research Group, has said that before the 2030 census launches the next cycle of redistricting, the state should overhaul its process by creating a commission that operates with total independence from the Legislature.

New York's current redistricting process is not what public interest groups had hoped for when voters approved a constitutional amendment in 2014 that led to the creation of the Independent Redistricting Commission.

A coalition of reform groups had pushed unsuccessfully for the state to create an independent, nonpartisan body to draw the state's political maps. Their goal was to foster a more open and transparent map-making process that would be insulated from partisanship.

Instead, then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo and legislative leaders proposed a commission whose members were appointed by the state's political leaders. That plan, which also gave the Legislature the right to reject the independent commission's proposals, won voter approval in 2014.

Destination: MANCHESTER, VT & VICINITY

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See map on page 11

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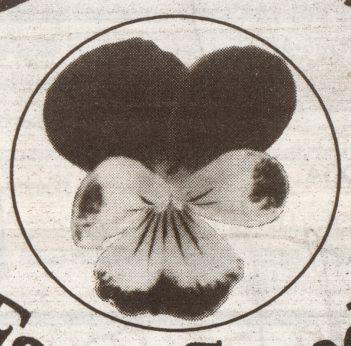
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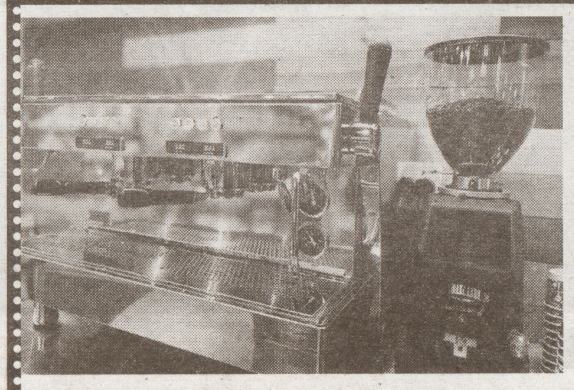


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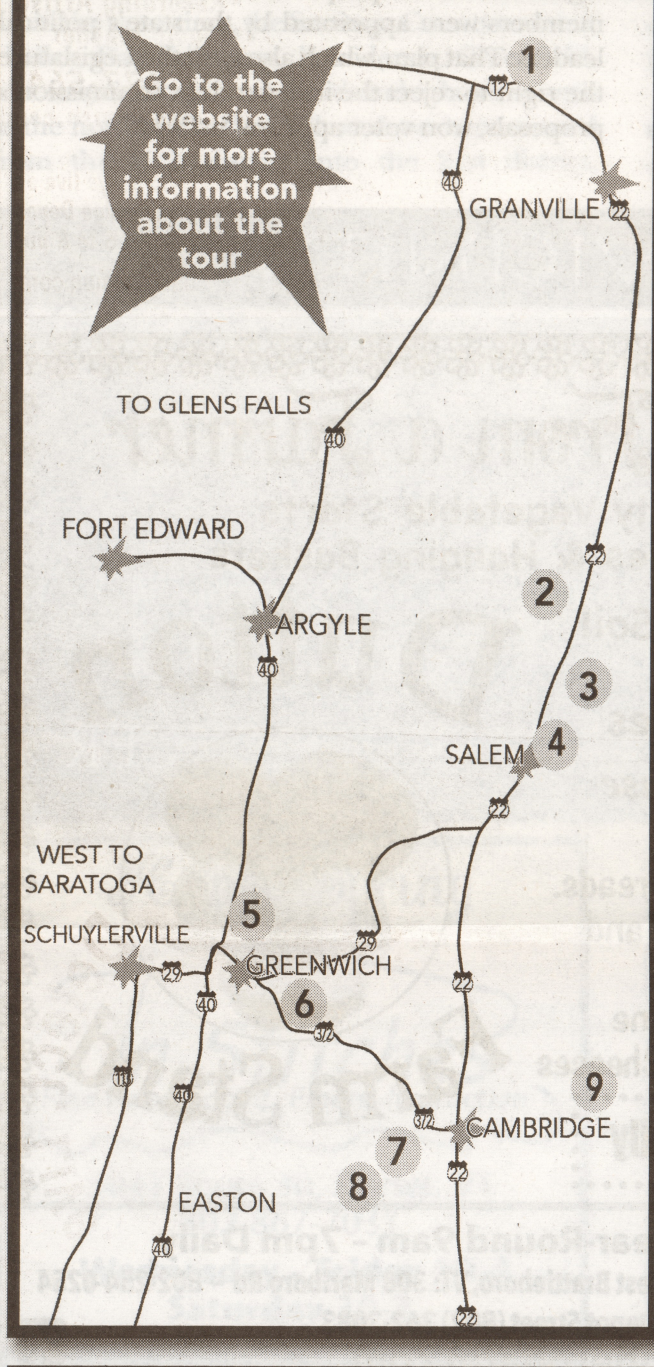


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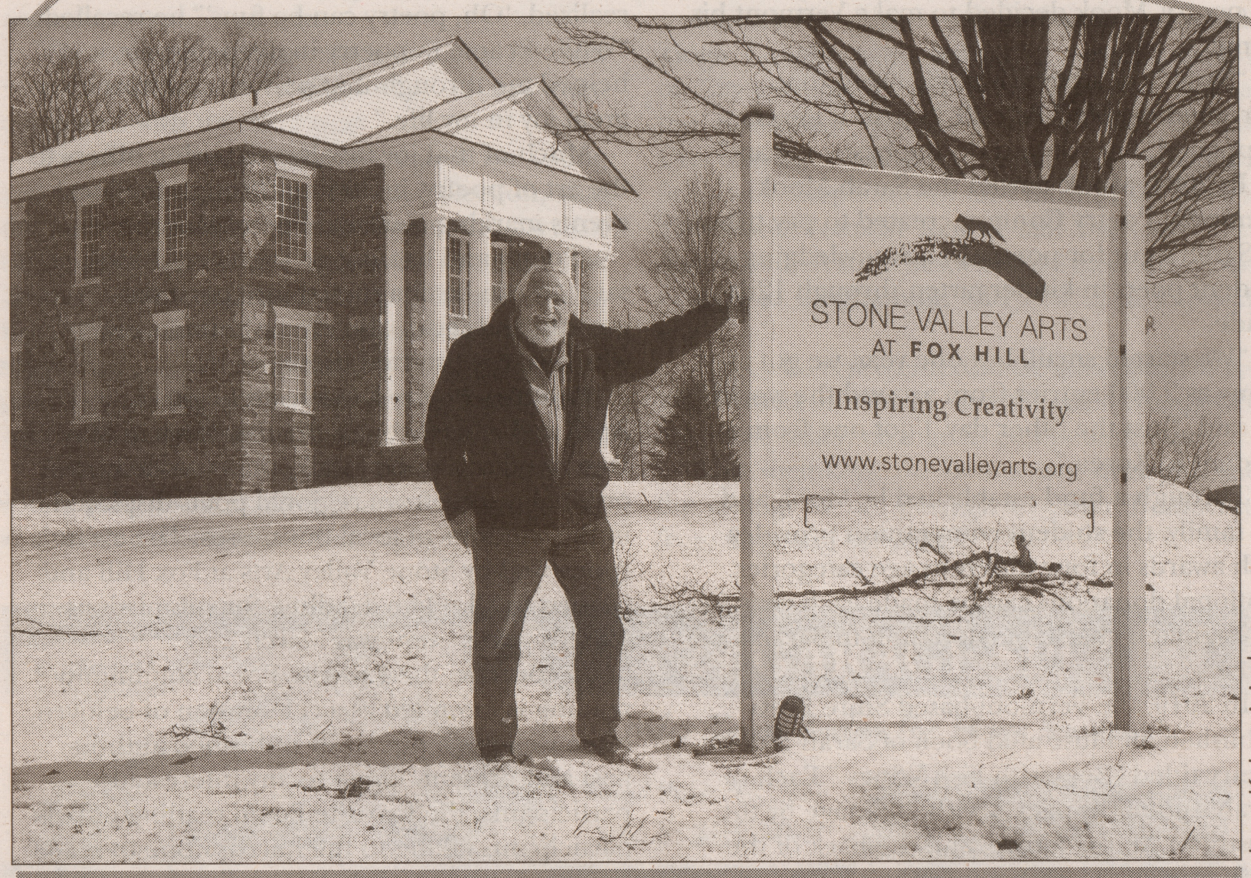
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ARTS&CULTURE



Joan K. Lentini photo

Local author David Mook stands in front of the Stone Valley Arts building, the site of a community "favorite poem" reading April 21 in Poultney, Vt. A companion event, Poultney Poetry Downtown, will display poems in the windows of local businesses in celebration of National Poetry Month.

Bringing poetry to Poultney

Author, arts center celebrate with community reading, downtown displays

By STACEY MORRIS
Contributing writer

POULTNEY, Vt.

As he has done for the past 19 years, David Mook spent a good chunk of the winter planning April's local celebration of National Poetry Month.

A poet and writer who began teaching part time at Castleton University in 2005, Mook organized his first "Favorite Poem" community poetry reading that year at the Pawlet Public Library. He modeled the event after a project launched in the late 1990s by Robert Pinsky, then the U.S. poet laureate, as a way to foster public appreciation of poetry.

That first year in Pawlet, Mook recalled, nine people gathered to recite poems ranging from Psalm 121 to Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken."

"The idea was to share poems that people love and have them share why they connect to that particular poem — not just the structure of the poem, but why they find it meaningful and what connects them to it."

Over the past two decades, Mook has guided the community poetry reading as it has grown and evolved. The event moved from Pawlet to Poultney in 2014, and since 2016 it has been held at Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, a 200-year-old stone edifice that began its life as a Methodist church and later housed a school, a community center and a Masonic temple before being transformed into a hub for the arts.

Mook said the Stone Valley center, which sponsors the annual poetry reading and also hosts a monthly literary open mic, is an ideal space for a reading. The center also offers dance and art classes, exhibitions and writing workshops.

The Favorite Poem reading, scheduled this year for 2 p.m. Sunday, April 21, has one ground rule: Participants can't bring poems they or their friends or family members have written.

For local poets, Mook has helped to organize a companion event, Poultney Poetry Downtown, in which people submit works for display in the windows of downtown businesses for the month of April.

Mook said as these events gradually have gained traction over the years, he hopes they are dispelling some misconceptions about poetry, one participant at a time.

"Unfortunately, because people's initial





experiences with poetry at school, there's a conception that poetry is inaccessible, or like a riddle to solve," he said. "Poetry is similar to visual art in that, you can look at a thousand paintings and won't like them all, but then you'll see a couple that move you. I encourage those who have had a bad experience: Give it a try, go to a reading and listen – you may be surprised."

From grief to verse

To say Mook is an aficionado of poetry is an understatement. It was poetry, he said, that pulled him through some his darkest days after the sudden death of his youngest daughter, Sarah, in 1995. She was 8.

"It changed the path of my life," Mook recalled. "Sarah was a poet and had written poetry since kindergarten. After she died I read all of her poetry. … It put me on the path."

When an empathetic friend presented Mook with a book about a woman who read poetry as a means of processing grief, his bond with the art form was solidified.

"I say without exaggeration: Poetry saved my life," Mook explained. "It was a lifeline for survival those first couple of years."

Mook had been a businessman, but his daughter's death was a foundation-shaking event that led him to sell his automobile dealerships. He went back to school, completing a bachelor's degree in English literature from Arcadia University, near Philadelphia, where he lived at the time. He went on to pursue graduate work in writing at Vermont College in Montpelier (now the Vermont College of Fine Arts). After earning a master's degree in writing with an emphasis on poetry, Mook decided to make Vermont his home.

"Sarah's death was a tragic event that uprooted my life," he said. "I wish it never happened, but you just do the best you can."

In 2004, Mook started the Sarah Mook Memorial Poetry Contest, created to pay tribute to Sarah's gift for poetry by acknowledging student poets in kindergarten through 12th grade.

"We started small, but one year, we got as many as 2,000 entries from around the world," he said. "Just the other day, I got one from a student in Korea."

Through a fund established by Mook and his family, the student competition provides cash awards in four different age categories. Optional donations can be made each year for a designated charitable donation in Sarah's name.

In 2019, the Vermont-based Shire Press published an illustrated book of Sarah Mook's poetry titled "Bees with Fish Wings." Each of Sarah's poems is paired with an image by the illustrator Marna Grove, and the back of the book provides worksheets for kids to create their own poems.

"This book is a gift from Sarah," Mook said.

Joyful expression

Although poetry initially was an invaluable tool that helped him grieve, Mook said he remembers the day its role shifted for him.

"I decided one day to write a poem, and realized, 'Oh, poetry can be fun,'" he recalled. "While I came to poetry in deep despair, it helped me through that period, and now it's a great joy in my life."

Much of that joy involves exposing others to the art of poetry, including through the local events marking National Poetry Month.

"Poetry and healing go together," Mook said. "It can be channeled into personal growth, and it can also create community, which is why I started these events."

Poultney Poetry Downtown begins in April and runs through the first week in May. Described as a poetry walk, the event features original poems from regional poets displayed in the windows of local businesses. The event is sponsored by Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill and is open to all. (The deadline for submissions for this year's event was March 25.)

In contrast, the Favorite Poem community reading is intended as a celebration of beloved, often well-worn poems by published authors past and present. Open to any interested participants, the Favorite Poem reading entails participants taking to the microphone to read a favorite poem and then describe the poem's personal significance.

"Hearing everyone's personal story and why

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a particular poem is so meaningful to them is an integral part of the experience," Mook said. "The idea of a favorite poem is a moving target; it can change over time. … I have a number of them. Right now, William Stafford's 'A Ritual to Read to Each Other' is at the top — it's both personal and universal."

David Quesnel of Manchester has been participating in Mook's poetry events for several years and credits them with helping to launch his own foray into writing books.

"It's always great to be involved with anything David Mook puts forth," he said. "And reading favorite poems creates some extraordinary dialogue regarding the poem's author, subject matter, and analysis of what's being said."

Quesnel grew up in Middlebury, where he counted the poet Robert Frost as a neighbor. So far, he's published three books on living and growing up in Vermont. Quesnel also keeps an ongoing notebook of 100 short stories inspired by adventures in his home state. It's from this latest effort that the author has written several original poems he submitted for this month's Downtown Poetry event in Poultney.

"I grew up in a college town and still consider Poultney a collage town," he said, referring to Green Mountain College, which closed in 2019. "David certainly keeps that intellectual influence going."

Mook said that with the world being more tumultuous than ever, in-person gatherings for the sake of connecting through poetry are a good antidote to social isolation.

"Pinsky said after 9/11, 'In times of trouble, we turn to poetry.' That is the power of poetry," he explained. "It's a distillation of emotions and experience — and it's relatable.

"Someone once said, 'The shortest distance between two people is a poem.' Those aren't my words, but I sure have held onto them. And I have Sarah to thank for it."

Visit the web site of Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill — www.stonevalleyarts.com — for more information about the Favorite Poem community reading on April 21 and the Downtown Poetry walk in Poultney. Visit www.sarahmookpoetrycontest.com for more details on the annual K-12 student poetry contest.

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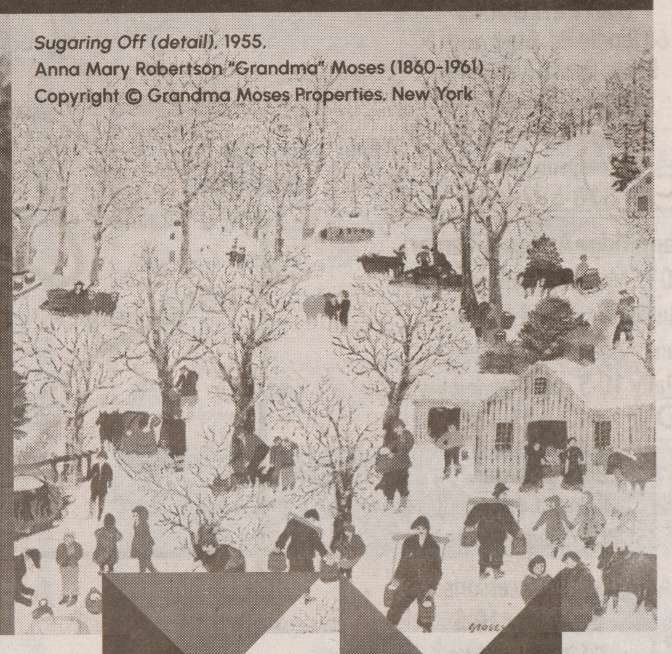
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Anna Mary Robertson "Grandma" Moses (1860-1961)
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Books *continued from page 10*

books about many topics he feels are important to anyone — including coming of age and puberty, intimacy and safe intimacy.

"It's shocking to me," he said, "that we wouldn't want to have conversations around how our bodies change, how we become attracted to people — and the discussion of consent with respect to intimacy, which is a critically, critically important factor. We know all too much that there's way too much domestic violence in our society. … And so the conversation of consent is incredibly important."

The state and the country have also seen many challenges to books in the queer space of writings, he said, adding that the costs are clear: For younger nonbinary or queer, gay, lesbian or transgendered youth, when they never see or read experiences like their own lived experiences, rates of depression and self-harm go up.

"So from a community health perspective, it's critical that these books not be banned," he concluded.

Libraries under pressure

A challenge to a book does not have to succeed, Zuckerman said, to cause harm. He explained that he's had many conversations with librarians who are facing pressure and antagonism. Even without an active challenge, a librarian may begin asking, "Do I bring this book into our school or not? Do I display this book on our library shelves or in a topic display that might be in the library?"

They are asking these questions not because they have any doubt about a book's value but just to avoid hostility.

Around the Northeast, libraries have come under pressure, and for some the consequences have been severe. At the southern edge of the Adirondacks, the Rockwell Falls Public Library in Lake Luzerne, N.Y., reopened in March after being shuttered for nearly six months in the aftermath of a public outcry sparked by a planned drag story hour. Contention at the library's board meetings had escalated to the point of physical conflict, and two of the library's three staff members and all but two of its board members resigned.

The Berkshires, in contrast, have seen support for libraries and their programming. On March 5, more than 30 people demonstrated outside the public library in Lee in support of a drag story hour after reports that opponents might protest the event.

Thompson *continued from page 11*

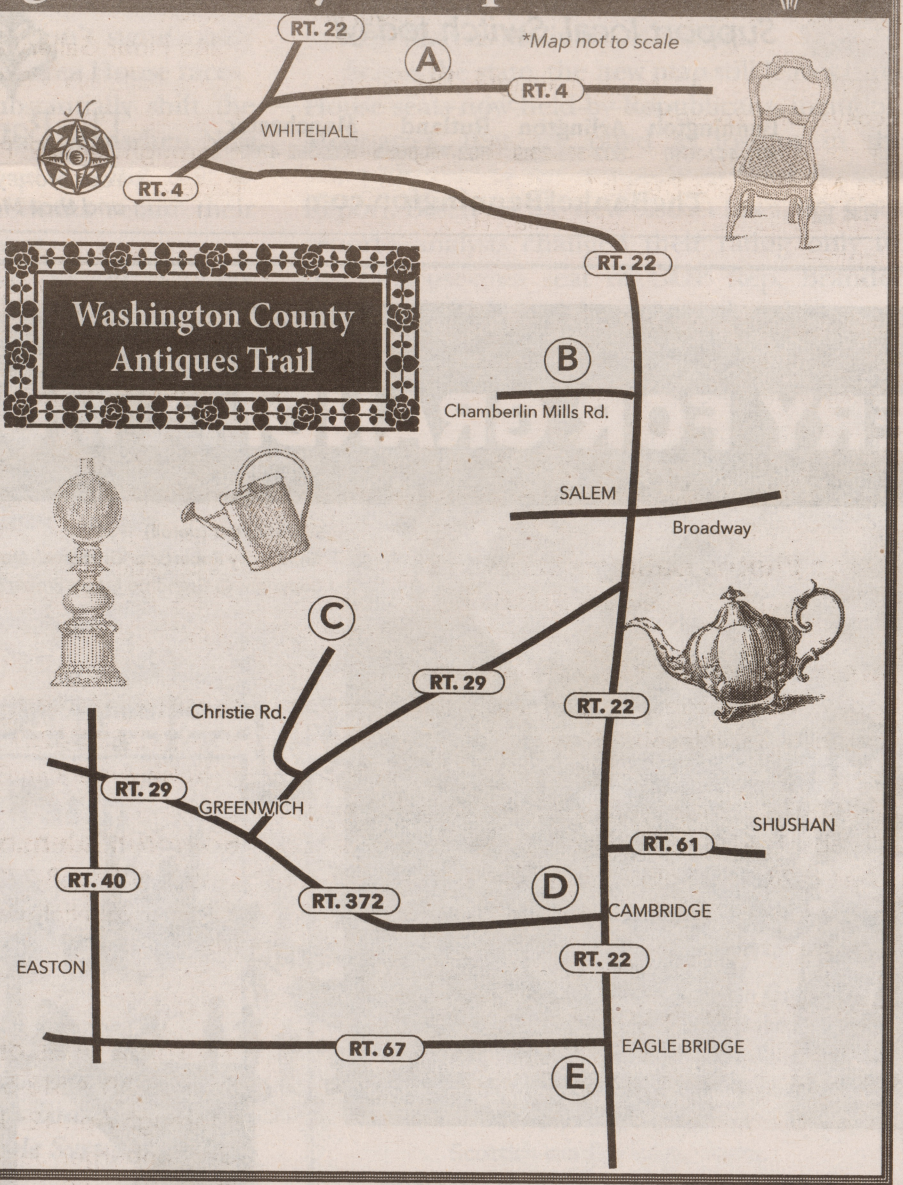
the 1894 version's prohibition on all types of gambling. But the next year, voters approved an amendment to allow pari-mutuel betting on horse races. And over the past 65 years, voters approved a series of amendments allowing betting games run by religious and nonprofit groups, the development of the state lottery system and, indirectly, the advent of casinos run by Indian tribes.

Finally, two years ago, the state's highest court essentially changed the scope of activities covered by the gambling prohibition since 1894 — any game where chance is a material element — to the standard applied by most other states, covering games that are determined more by chance than by skill. The ruling had the effect of legalizing fantasy sports contests that had already been operating in the state for a number of years.

Maury Thompson was a reporter for The Post-Star *of Glens Falls for 21 years before retiring in 2017. He now is a freelance writer focusing on the history of politics, labor and media in the region.*

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Arts & Culture

Area Exhibitions

ArtOmi.org • 518-392-4747 • Sculpture & Architecture Park • outdoor, self-guided tour, multiple artists
• through Jun. 2: "Olalekan Jeyifous: Even in Arcadia"

BenningtonMuseum.org • 75 Main St., Bennington, VT • 802-447-1571 • Online, too
• Apr. 1-21: Bennington Project Independence Show
• Apr. 1-Jun. 2: Annual Student Art Show
• Apr. 19: Tattoo Living Exhibition • 6-9 pm
• Apr. 27-Aug. 11, 2024: Dark Goddess: Sacroprofanity

BerkshireBotanical.org • 5 W. Stockbridge Rd., Stockbridge, MA • 413-298-3926
• through Apr. 12: BBG Creativity Unleashed!
• Apr. 20-May 27: "Re-Rooted" by Ellen Driscoll

BerkshireHistory.org/InvisibleCommunity • Home of Herman Melville from 1850-1863 •
• The Invisible Community: African Americans in Berkshire County (1830-2012) • Links at URL & Berkshire County Historical Society YouTube Channel (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpvu1J8etvdgSsr2bmDeSEuuzV2DNlFMu)
• A Driving Tour of Berkshire County's Literary History (link at URL)

BerkshireMuseum.org • 39 South St., Pittsfield, MA • 413-443-7171 • On-going exhibits, plus • Objects and Their Stories
• through May 5: "Painted Pages: Illuminated Manuscripts of the 13th to 18th Centuries"
• Jun. 1-Sep. 29: "The Wild Indoors: The Animal Art of Julie Bell"

CarrieHaddadGallery.com • 622 Warren St., Hudson, NY • 518-828-1915
• through Apr. 21: "Tangled Up in Blue" (feat. Julia Whitney Barnes, Linda Newman Boughton, Donise English, Owen Mann, and James O'Shea)
• Apr. 26-Jun. 16: "All Figured Out" (feat. Mark Beard, William Clutz, Robert Goldstrom, Carl Grauer, Lauren Hamilton, Ransome, & Caitlin Winner) & Upstairs Gallery: Encaustic Paintings by Alaina Enslen

ChapmanMuseum.org • 348 Glens St., Glens Falls, NY • 518-793-2826
• Ongoing: "Introductory Exhibit: Explore the History of Glens Falls & Queensbury" & "Hands-On History: Experiences of Hometown Life"
• through Apr. 2: "Adirondack Cabins & Camps"
• through May 12: "Hometown Teams"
• Apr. 2-Jun. 16: "Riding in Style"

ClarkArt.edu • 225 South St., Williamstown, MA
• through Apr. 30: Publications from 1874 in celebration of Williamstown Public Library's 150th Anniversary (on display at Sawyer Library, Stetson Hall, 26 Hopkins Hall Dr.)
• through Jun. 23: "Paper Cities"
• through Jan. 26, 2025: "David-Jeremiah: I Drive Thee"
• Jul 13-Oct. 6: "Edgar Degas: Multi-Media Artist in the Age of Impressionism"

Courthouse Gallery • 1 Amherst St., Lake George, NY • www.lakegeorgearts.org • Masks
• through Apr. 13: John McGiff's "Painting as Vision"

510WarrenStreetGallery.com • Hudson, NY • 518-822-0510
• Apr. 4-28: Marilyn Orner: "The Sky, the Land, the Water"

Eclipse Mill Gallery • 243 Union St., North Adams, MA
• Apr. 5-27: "Mother," new paintings and works on paper by Kelsey Shultis

Folklife Center at Crandall Public Library • www.CrandallLibrary.org/Folklife-Center • 251 Glen St., Glens Falls, NY
• Online: Documentaries, Concerts, Stories: https://www.youtube.com/@thefolklifecenteratcrandal8195
• Blog stories: www.folklifecenter.com
•Folklife Gallery, Upstairs Gallery, Folklife Hallway:
• through Aug. 30: "Breaking the Chains: Lincoln & Douglass Linocuts of Stephen Alcorn"
• Apr. 4-Aug. 30: "Love Stories from 1000 Years Ago" Persian Illustrations by Jacquiline Touba
• through Jun. 11: Shutter Squad: Kids' Photography Show

HudsonHall.org • 327 Warren St., Hudson, NY
• 518-822-1438
• through Apr. 14: "E(n)ternal Lighf: The Eternal Ecosystem Exposed"
• through Nov. 26: "Houses and the Night Sky: The Art of Donna Dennis"
• Apr. 20-Jun. 2: Michael Lindsay-Hogg "Talking Pictures"

HydeCollection.org • 518-792-1761
• through Apr. 21: "Venetian Vistas" AND "Decorating in Style: Furniture from the Permanent Collection"
• through Jun. 2: "Paul Anthony Smith: Passage"
• May 4-Jun. 2: Annual High School Juried Show

Image Photos Gallery • 413-298-5500
• photography of Clemens Kalischer

JacobsPillow.org • Browse on demand at https://watch.jacobspillow.org and https://www.youtube.com/c/JacobsPillow

LABspace • 2642 NY Rte. 23, Hillsdale, NY • julielabspace@gmail.com • Sat.-Sun. 1-5 pm
• Apr. 6-28: Two Solos: Susan Still Scott's "Arrows in My Quiver" and Pearl Cowan's "Metamorphosis"

TheLafferGallery.com • 96 Broad St., Schuylerville, NY • 518-695-3181
• through Apr. 7: "A Moment Exposed" (accessible online)

LARAC.org • Glens Falls, NY • 518-798-1144
--Lapham Gallery • 7 Lapham Pl.
• through Apr. 3: "Fire Light"
• Apr. 12-May 15: "Mirror Master"

NationalBottleMuseum.org • 76 Milton Ave., Ballston Spa, NY • 518-885-7589
• Permanent: Bottles of the USA • Uranium Glass • Bottle that Held up Wall Street • Malcolm Jones Exhibit • Vintage Pharmacy Book Display • Glass Paperweight Collection • The Ralph and Eleanor Work Collection • Glass Factory Mountain: Making Bottles Making History (history of Mt. Pleasant community north of Greenfield, NY, 1844 to 1865)
• Ballston Spa Bottles • Commemorative & Advertising Shot Glasses • Coca Cola Bottles • Whimseys • Ellenville Glass Works 1836-1866

Norman Rockwell Museum • 9 Glendale Rd, Stockbridge, MA • nrm.org • 413-298-4100
• Mystery & Wonder: Highlights from the Illustration Collection
• Virtual Exhibition: Normal Rockwell: Imagining Freedom
• through May 27: "Between Worlds: The Art and Design of Leo Lionni"
• through Nov. 5: Tony Sarg: Genius at Play
• "Norman Rockwell: The Business of Illustrating the American Dream"
• Rockwell Re-Interpreted: Highlights from the Permanent Collection
• 323 "Saturday Evening Post" Covers

NorthCountryArts.org
--The Shirt Factory • Suite 120, 71 Lawrence St., Glens Falls, NY
• through Apr. 20: "Don't Worry, It's Just Art"
• May 4-Jun. 15: Expressions 2024 Juried Art Exhibit
--2nd Floor Gallery at City Hall • 42 Ridge St., Glens Falls, NY • 518-222-1471
• through Apr. 12: NCA Gallery
• through Jun. 29: Paintings by Rosie Wang Badera

Olana State Park • Hudson, NY • olana.org
• May 12-Oct. 27: Afterglow: Frederic Church and the Landscape of Memory

PamelaSalisburyGallery.com • 362 ½ Warren St., Hudson, NY
• through Apr. 5: Carl D'Alvia
• through Apr. 7: Lisa Ivory; Chris Bartlett
• Apr. 13-Jun. 9: Lothar Osterburg: "A Celebration of the Small"
• May 18-Jun. 16: Phoebe Helander: "In Plain Sight"

PoultneyMuseum.org • 168 York St., Poultney, VT • 802-884-8269
• Welsh-American Gene. Society rotating exhibits

RootedinSalem.org • 196 N. Main St., Unit A, Salem, NY • 518-772-9332
• Apr. 8-26: Nichole 'Coco' Everson: "Pieces of Me"

Saratoga-Arts.org • 320 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY • 518-584-4132
• through Apr. 12: Juried Exhibition 2, feat. Karen Gerstenberger, Jackie Zysk & Lydia Sharp, Susan Meyer, Carol Bollinger Green
• Apr. 19-May 17: Juried Exhibition 3, feat. Madison Smrtic, Peter Harrison, Catherine Wagner Minnery, Timothy Shaffer

SeptemberGallery.com • 4 Hudson St., Kinderhook, NY
• through Apr. 7: "In the Pale Moonlight" (feat. 10 artists) and Neil Brookfield: "Humans of Course are Animals"

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Arts & Culture

New Stoddard exhibit shows 19th century travel

GLENS FALLS, N.Y.

A new exhibit set to open in the Stoddard Gallery at the Chapman Museum features images of horse-drawn carriages filled with tourists, steamboats loading passengers to explore remote lakes, and train cars carrying businessmen to their destinations.

"Riding in Style" will open on Tuesday, April 2 and runs through June 16. The photographs in this exhibit offer a glimpse at how individuals and families navigated the southern Adirondack region at the end of the 19th century. Travel looked quite different in Stoddard's lifetime.

In contrast with today's rows of seating, "the passengers of steamboats and train cars enjoyed luxurious travel accommodations," curator Maureen Folk explained.

Stoddard began his career in photography after moving to Glens Falls in the mid-1860s, capturing hometown and wilderness scenes across the Adirondacks.

The Calendar April 2024

1

CaffeLena.org • Open Mic Night • 7 pm

ImagesCinema.org • "The Taste of Things"

misc.

parks.ny.gov/moreau • Adv. reg.: 518-793-0511
--Forest Bathing • 9 am • beginner walk, abt. 2-hrs • bring small sit-upon mat • ages 14+ • $5/person
--Kid-Friendly Potters Point Hike • 10 am • abt. 1 mi., off trail, mud, terrain may challenge those w/little legs • No strollers • Req. clothes that can get wet & dirty & shoes that keep feet dry • $1/child
-- Beaver Walk • 1 pm • Wetlands Walk & Mud Pond trails • easy-moderate, abt. 2.5 miles • $1/child, $5/adult upon arrival

2

CaffeLena.org • Storytelling Night, feat. Julia Biaculli • 7 pm

ImagesCinema.org • "The Taste of Things"

ChapmanMuseum.org • Storytime: "Lailah's Lunchbox: A Ramadan Story" • 2 pm • Free, reg. REQ'D at 518-793-2826

ClarkArt.edu • Cynthea J. Bogel, feat. "Iconic Buddha Sculpture Motifs" • Recep. 5/Talk 5:30 pm

Williams.edu • "The War in Gaza and the International Context," feat. Bernard Avishai & No-am Pianko w/Prof. Galen Jackson • 7:30 pm • Bernhard Music Ctr.

continued on page 22

3

NextStageArts.org • Violinist Johnny Gandelsman: "This is America: Part III" • 7 pm • Putney, VT

Williams.edu • Julian Müller, cello, Elizabeth Wright, piano • Free • 7:30 pm • Brooks-Rogers Hall

Bennington.edu • Samir LanGus: Gnawa Music • 8-9:30 pm • Deane Carriage Barn, Pit

atUPH.org • Women Aren't Funny--Karen Rontowski • 7:30 pm

ImagesCinema.org • "The Taste of Things" • "Terminator 2: Judgement Day"

CaffeLena.org • Poetry Open Mic, feat. Susan Jefts • 7 pm

Bennington.edu •
--Poetry: Verse Engineering: Craft Talk with Mary-Alice Daniel • 2-3 pm • Barn 204
--Mary-Alice Daniel & Cindy Juyoung Ok • 7-8 pm • Tishman Lecture Hall

CaffeLena.org • Poetry open mic & Susan Jefts • Doors 6:30 pm

misc.

parks.ny.gov/moreau • Stonewall Hike • 9 am • easy, 3+ mi. • Check in office, convoy to trail-head • $5/hiker • Adv. reg. req'd.: 518-793-0511

DeweyHall.org • Drop-In: Game Night • 7 pm

7

CaffeLena.org
--Opera Saratoga's America Sings: César Andrés Parreño, Tenor • 1 pm
--House of Hamill • 7 pm

MusicfromSalem.org • Chamber music • 4 pm • 58 E. Broadway, Salem, NY

DeweyHall.org • Conscious Dance Collective Freestyle Movement Practice • 9:30-11 am • This date only for those who identify as women.

- Bridge Street Players
- Dorset Players.org
- FortSalem.com
- Taconic Stage Company
- WAMTheatre.org

CaffeLena.org • Playwright's Jam! • 1-4 pm

ImagesCinema.org • "Dark Crystal" • "Drive Away Dolls" • "Love Lies Bleeding"

ClarkArt.edu • Giuseppina Forte, Ph.D., feat. "The Self-Built City: Material Politics and Ecol-ogies of Difference in São Paulo" • 11 am

BerkshireHistory.org • Marathon Reading of Billy Budd • 12-4 pm • Sign-up for 15-min. slot at URL • 1 School St., Pittsfield, MA

NextStageArts.org • Angelina Lippert's "Art Deco: Commercializing the Avant-Garde" • 7 pm

8

CaffeLena.org • Open Mic Night • 7 pm

ImagesCinema.org • "Love Lies Bleeding"

misc.

HudsonCrossingPark.org • Eclipse Encounter at Hudson Crossing Park • 2-5 pm

9

CaffeLena.org • Chatham County Line • 7 pm

ImagesCinema.org • "Love Lies Bleeding"

ClarkArt.edu • Michelle Foa: "Edgar Degas as Investigator of th Life of Matter and the Matter of Art" • 5:30 pm

misc.

DeweyHall.org • Miryam Healing • See Apr. 2

10

DeweyHall.org • Drop-In: Jazz Jam • 7 pm

CaffeLena.org • Chuck Lamb Trio, feat. Harry Allen • 7:30 pm

ImagesCinema.org • "Love Lies Bleeding" • "Indigo Girls: It's Only Life After All"

ChapmanMuseum.org • Convo w/ the Past: Mark Frost's "How the Community Built the Glens Falls Chronicle" • 7 pm • Free & reg. REQ'D at 518-793-2826

misc.

parks.ny.gov/moreau • Adv. reg. req'd.: 518-793-0511
--Lake Bonita to Lake Ann Hike • 9 am • moderate, 3.5 miles • Check in & pay $5/hiker at office, convoy to trailhead
--Homeschool Pop-Up-Frogs • 10 am • Open to public, ages 6+, siblings • $5/adult, $1/child

14

BenningtonMuseum.org • Ask: Music, Love, & Mysticism in the Ottoman World • 2-3:30 pm

CEWM.org • "Something Borrowed, Something Blue--Cross Cultural Synergy!," feat. Chertock, Zorman & Hanani • 4 pm • Mahaiwe PAC

CaffeLena.org • Eve. w/ Nite Train & the Winslow Brothers • 7 pm

DeweyHall.org • See Apr. 7 • This date open for all

- Dorset Players.org
- FortSalem.com
- GhentPlayhouse.org
- WAMTheatre.org

TheFoundryWS.com • WAM Theater Fresh Takes, viewable online • See Apr. 7

ImagesCinema.org • "Problemista" • "Alice"

15

CaffeLena.org • Open Mic Night • 7 pm

Academy of Music Theatre • "The Emperor's New Groove" (2000) • Free • Doors 10:30 am • 274 Main St., Northampton, MA

ImagesCinema.org • "Problemista"

Bennington.edu • Setsuko Sato Winchester: "Beyond Black & White . . .: The Asian American Story & Why it Matters" • 7-8 pm • CAPA Symposium

misc.

parks.ny.gov/moreau • Forest Bathing • See Apr. 1

16

CaffeLena.org • Rochmon Record: Harry Nilsson's "Nilsson Schmilsson" • 7 pm

Academy of Music Theatre • "The Great Muppet Caper" (1981) • See Apr. 15

ImagesCinema.org • "Problemista"

misc.

parks.ny.gov/moreau • Adv. res. req'd.: 518-793-0511
--Planting for Pollinators • 10 am • Learn plants & make seed bombs • $1/child, $5/adult
--Tree I.D. Walk • 11:30 am • $5/person

DeweyHall.org • Miryam • See Apr. 2

17

CaffeLena.org • Bluegrass Jam w/Red Spruce • 7 pm

Bennington.edu • Zeena Parkins • 8-10 pm • Deane Carriage Barn, Pit

DeweyHall.org • Drop-In: Storytelling Evening • 7 pm

Academy of Music Theatre • "Singin' in the Rain" (1952) • See Apr. 15

ImagesCinema.org • "Problemista"

HudsonHall.org • "Kyo-aanisqatsi" (1982)

BerkshireHistory.org • Online: "Melville's Print Collection" • 5:30-6:30 pm • Free & res. REQ'D. from melville@berkshirehistory.org

Bennington.edu • Lit Evening: Phillip B. Williams ("Ours") • 7-8 pm • Tishman Lecture Hall

misc.

parks.ny.gov/moreau • RT Baker Trail to Overlook Hike • 9 am • Moderate, 2+ mi. • Check in & pay $5/hiker & convoy to trailhead • Res. req'd.: 518-793-0511

HubbardHall.org • Breaking Bread • 6:30 pm • Beacon Feed Building

SalemCourthouse.org • Online Auction ends (began Apr. 5) • 8 pm

Arts & Culture

The Calendar April 2024

Thurs 4

CaffeLena.org
--Slow Jam: Folk, Bluegrass, More! • 1-3 pm
--Ruthie Foster • 8-10 pm

ParkTheaterGF.com • Joseph Terrell & Blue Cactus • Doors 7:30/Show 8 pm • Glens Falls, NY

TheFoundryWS.com • "Soft Shoe Boom Boom Spin Blue!" fundraiser for They Dance For Rain • Seating/bar, 6:30 pm/Show, 7 pm

• Bridge Street Players

Williams.edu • "Archives, Apocalypses & Trans Futures: Poetry w/Justice Ameer & Chrysan-themum" • 7-8:30 pm • '62 Center

BerkshireTheater-Group.org • Comedian Bob Marley • 7:30 pm • Colonial Theatre, 111 South St., Pittsfield, MA

ImagesCinema.org • "The Taste of Things"• "God & Country"

ClarkArt.edu • "Adaptation" (2002) • Free • 6 pm • Manton Center • Info: 413-458-2303 • Ac-cessibility: 413-549-0524

Tang.Skidmore.edu • "Eyes Without a Face (1960) and "Tetsuo: The Iron Man" (1989) • 6 pm

CrandellTheatre.org • "Dune: Part 2" • 7 pm

Bennington.edu • Poetry at Bennington
--Revising in the Gap: Craft Talk w/ Cindy Juyoung Ok • 11 am-12 pm • Cricket Hill

continued on page 22

Fri 5

MusicfromSalem.org • Chamber music Open Rehearsal • Free • 2 pm • Brown Farm heated studio, 154 Priest Rd., Salem, NY

BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • River of Dreams: Tribute to Billy Joel • 7:30 pm • Colonial Theatre, 111 South St., Pittsfield, MA

TheFoundryWS.com • Ivan Trabka Cellist • 7:30 pm

Williams.edu • Visting Artists Mokoomba • Free • 7:30 pm • Chapin Hall

CaffeLena.org • The Special Consensus • 8 pm

• Bridge Street Players
• Dorset Players.org
• FortSalem.com
• Taconic Stage Company

Williams.edu • "Lessons in Drag" w/LaWhore Vagistan • Free • 7-8:30 pm • '62 Center

ImagesCinema.org • "Love Lies Bleeding" • "Drive Away Dolls

StoneValleyArts.org • "The Whale" (2022) • Free • 7 pm

ClarkArt.edu
--Free gallery Tours for Parents & Infants/pre-toddlers • 10:15 am
--Anna Watkins Fisher, feat. "Compromised Art of Parasitical Resistance" • Recep. 5/Talk 5:30 pm

misc.

SalemCourthouse.org • 518-854-3254 to donate
--Online Auction begins (through 8 pm Apr. 17) • 8

continued on page 23

Sat 6

DeweyHall.org • Berkshire Strings Jams • 10 am

CaffeLena.org
--Little Folks w/Peter Mulvey • 3 pm
--Peter Mulvey w/opener Zachary Lucky • 8 pm

SpencertownAcademy.org • Operation Unite Benefit, feat. Antony Bracewell, Gili Melamed-Lev, & Julian Muller • 3 pm • 790 St. Rte. 203

HudsonHall.org • Shanghai Quartet • 7 pm

NextStageArts.org • Rob Flax's Boom Chic Trio • 7:30 pm • Putney, VT

ParkTheaterGF.com • Caña Dulce y Caña Brava • 7:30 pm • Glens Falls, NY

TheFoundryWS.com • Eclipse Season Concert by Lady Moon & the Eclipse • 7:30 pm

BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • Berkshire Art Center's Annual Fund-raiser: Rococo Raku Revel-ry Dance Party! • 5:30 pm

atUPH.org • Midnight Mass: Bloomin' • 9 pm • Saratoga Springs, NY

• Bridge Street Players
• Dorset Players.org
• FortSalem.com
• Taconic Stage Company

ImagesCinema.org • Dark Crystal • Drive Away Dolls • Love Lies Bleeding

Woodtheater.org • "Mineville" (2010) • 7 pm

ClaverackLibrary.org • Matthew Szydagis, Ph.D.,

continued on page 23

11

CaffeLena.org
--Slow Jam: Folk, Bluegrass, and More! • 1 pm
--Tophouse w/opener Elias Hix, live sold out, livestream only

• Bridge Street Players

ImagesCinema.org • "Love Lies Bleeding" • "The Settlers"

ClarkArt.edu • "Berlin: Symphony of a Great City" (1927) • Free • 6 pm

BattenkillBooks.com • Joseph Bruchac ("Dawn Land") • Live & Zoom • 6:30 pm

Hebron United Church West • Breadtree Farms: "Past, Present, & Future of Chestnuts" • 6:30 pm • Hebron East facility, 3153 Co. Rte. 30, W. Hebron, NY

misc.

parks.ny.gov/moreau • Forest Bathing • See Apr. 1

Culinary Arts @spac.org • "Pintxos: A Taste of Spain's Basque Country" • 6-9 pm

12

CaffeLena.org • Cosy Sheridan & Susan Cattaneo: Evening of Women Songwriters • 8 pm

SouthCommunityFoodPantry.org • "Rock & Bowl" fundraiser • 5-8 pm • $5 (kids) - $100 • 74 First St., Pittsfield, MA

TheFoundryWS.com • Pocket Merchant • 7:30 pm

atUPH.org • "Trailblazing Women of Country: Tribute to Patsy, Loretta & Dolly" • 7:30 pm

• Bridge Street Players
• Dorset Players.org
• FortSalem.com
• GhentPlayhouse.org

HudsonHall.org • Camphill Hudson Players: "Forgetful Divas" • Free • 7 pm • Res. rec'd.

ImagesCinema.org • "Problemista"

ParkTheaterGF.com • Bike Movie Night

WCHS-NY.org • Local History Bk Club: "Saving Simon" (Jon Katz) • 12-1 pm • 167 Broadway, Ft. Edward, NY

misc.

parks.ny.gov/moreau • See Apr. 5

13

atUPH.org • New American Cuisine and Reese Fulmer & Carriage House Band • 7:30 pm

CaffeLena.org • Jiji • 8 pm

VTArtsExchange • Coffee House Jazz • Dinner (not in-cld) opens 5-6:30; Music 7:30 pm • 1 Prospect St, N. Bennington

WoodTheater.org • Lip Sync Battle 2024 • 7 pm

ParkTheaterGF.com • Shu • 8:30 pm

• Bridge Street Players
• Dorset Players.org
• FortSalem.com
• GhentPlayhouse.org
• WAMTheatre.org

TheFoundryWS.com • WAM Theater Fresh Takes, viewable online • See Apr. 7

CrandellTheatre.org • "Hop"

ImagesCinema.org • "Alice" • "Problemista"

misc.

AprilFoolsRace.org • 3 distances • Supports Hist. Salem Courthouse & Salem Central School Class of 2026

SustainableSaratoga.org • Saratoga Sustainability Fair • 10 am-3 pm • Free • Skidmore Case Center

18

CaffeLena.org • Slow Jam: Folk, Bluegrass, & More! • 1 pm

Folklife Center Concert • Crossroads of Sound • Crandall Public Lib. • Free • 6:30 pm doors/7 pm showtime

ParkTheaterGF.com • Matt Niedbalski Trio, feat. Steven Kirsty • 7:30 pm

atUPH.org • BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet • 7:30 pm

• Charles R. Wood Theater

ImagesCinema.org • "Problemista"

Tang.Skidmore.edu • "birth/rebirth" (2023) • 6 pm

Academy of Music Theatre • "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem" (2023) • See Apr. 15

ClarkArt.edu • "ARAL: Fishing in an Invisible Sea" (2004) & "The Haunted" (2017) • Free • 6 pm

misc.

parks.ny.gov/moreau • Western Ridge to Eastern Ridge Loop Hike • 9 am • difficult, 6 mi. • Bring food, water, waterproof shoes & weather-approp. clothing • $5 • Adv. reg. req'd.: 518-793-0511

19

atUPH.org • In the Round: Kimbra and Angelina Valente • 7:30 pm

CaffeLena.org • Michael Eck & Friends • 8 pm

SalemCourthouse.org • Folklife Concert w/Crossroads of Sound • Free • 6:30 pm doors/7 pm showtime

• BerkshireTheatreGroup
• FortSalem.com
• GhentPlayhouse.org
• Charles R. Wood Theater

ImagesCinema.org • "Common Ground" • "Evil Dead II"

misc.

parks.ny.gov/moreau • Wiggly Wanderers • See Apr. 5

ChapmanMuseum.org • Book Sale • 10 am-4 pm

ClarkArt.edu • Free
--Earth Walk w/Dogs • 10 am • Capacity ltd., adv. reg. rec'd.
--Print Room Pop-Up: Dogs & Nature • 11 am-1 pm

BenningtonMuseum.org • Tattoo Living Exhibition • 6-9 pm

20

DeweyHall.org • Berkshire Strings Jams • 10 am

CaffeLena.org • Kat Wright Trio • 4 pm

TheFoundryWS.com • 65th St. Ensemble • 7:30 pm

Skidmore.edu • Skidmore String Festival w/the Miró Quartet & Lara Downes • 7:30 pm • Free • Zankel Music Center

atUPH.org • US Army Jazz Ambassadors • 7:30 pm • Free

• BerkshireTheatreGroup
• FortSalem.com
• GhentPlayhouse.org
• Charles R. Wood Theater

ClarkArt.edu • The Met: Live in HD "La Rondine" • 12:55 pm • Adv. reg. rec'd.

ImagesCinema.org • "Wall-E" • Gardens of Piet Oudolf" • "Deep Rising" • "Evil Dead II"

Bennington.edu • "La Gravité" (dir. Cédric Ido, 2020) • 7-8:30 pm • Tishman

AncramOperaHouse.org • Comm. Storytelling Wkshp. w/Paul Ricciardi • Free • 11 am

misc.

SustainableSaratoga.org • Earth Day Team Up to Clean Up • 10am-12 pm • email zerowaste@

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Arts & Culture

The Calendar April 2024

21

CaffeLena.org • Joe Louis Walker • 7 pm

HubbardHall.org • SUNY Schenectady Students' Piano Concert • 3 pm • Cambridge, NY

Spac.org • "Here on Earth" w/Lara Downes & Miró Quartet • 3 pm • Spa Little Theater

ClarkArt.edu • Classical Concert by Yarn/Wire & Patrick Higgins • $10 • 4 pm

SalemCourthouse.org • Chamber Music w/Daniel Shulman & Kaori Washiyama • 4-6 pm •

- BerkshireTheatreGroup
- FortSalem.com
- GhentPlayhouse.org
- Charles R. Wood Theater

ImagesCinema.org • "Women at War" • "Motherload"

Northampton Youth Cinema Festival • Doors 5:30 pm/showtime 6 pm • 33 Hawley Flex Space • NorthamptonArtsCouncil.org or 413-587-1069

Bennington Hist. Soc. • "The Kelleys" • 2-3 pm • Bennington Museum

StoneValleyArts.org • Comm. Favorite Poem Reading • 2-3:30 pm

misc.

parks.ny.gov/moreau • Friends [of MLSP] Earth Day Road Clean Up • 1 pm • Meet at office

22

CaffeLena.org • Open Mic Night • 7 pm

ImagesCinema.org • "Common Ground" • "Songs of Earth"

misc.

parks.ny.gov/moreau • 24-hr. adv. reg. req'd.: 518-793-0511
--Homeschool Pop-Up-Earth Day:"Signs of spring" treasure hunt • 10 am • Ages 6+, sibs. • Open to public • weather-approp. clothes & shoes • $1/child
--Moreau Lake Kayak Trip • 2 pm • Beg. & skilled • Ltd. rentals or bring own kayak • $5 or $15 w/kayak rental • Check in/pay at office

23

CaffeLena.org • Skidmore Small Jazz Ensembles Comm. Concert • 7 pm

ImagesCinema.org • "Five Seasons: Gardens of Piet Oudolf" • "The Story of Plastic"

ClarkArt.edu • Daegan Miller, feat. "Examining Race & the Idealized Image of the Wilderness" • 5:30 pm

misc.

parks.ny.gov/moreau • Adv. reg. req'd: 518-793-0511
--Cottage Park Hike • moderate 2 mi. loop • 1:30 pm • Check in office, convoy to

continued on page 23

24

ParkTheaterGF.com • Rochmon Record: Neil Young's "Harvest" • 7 pm

CaffeLena.org • Songwriter Showcase w/Erin Harkes • 7:30 pm

DeweyHall.org • Drop-In: Talent Share • 7 pm

ImagesCinema.org • "Confronting Climate Change"

Bennington.edu • Poetry: Mónica de la Torre & Courtney Faye Taylor • 7 pm • Tishman

misc.

parks.ny.gov/moreau • Forest Bathing • See Apr. 1

28

BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • Chris Ruggiero in Concert • 3 pm • Colonial Theatre, Pittsfield, MA

CaffeLena.org • Raul Midón • 7 pm

DeweyHall.org • See Apr. 7

- GhentPlayhouse.org

misc.

WashingtonCountyFiberTour.org • See Apr. 27

parks.ny.gov/moreau • Qs & adv. res. req'd.: 518-793-0511
• Beginner Bird Watching • 8:30 am • start & stop walk < 2 mi. • Approp. clothes & boots req'd. • $5/adult, $1/child
--Introduce Trail Steward Program Meeting • 10 am • Free

GildedAge.org • Berk-Chique! • See Apr. 27 • 10 am-2 pm

29

CaffeLena.org • Open Mic Night • 7 pm

misc.

parks.ny.gov/moreau • Forest Bathing • See Apr. 1

30

Bennington.edu • Chase Elodia's Perennials • 7-8 pm • Deane Carriage Barn, Pit

CaffeLena.org • Between Warp & Weft: Convo. about Material Culture, Diaspora & Belonging • 7 pm

misc.

parks.ny.gov/moreau • Hiking Preparedness (see Apr. 23), then Hike Mud Pond • 10 am • $5/adult, $1/child • easier, around 2.5 mi. • appropriate clothes & boots • Adv. res.: 518-793-0511

DeweyHall.org • Miryam • See Apr. 2

2 Tues *cont'd.*

misc.

parks.ny.gov/moreau • 24-hr adv. reg. req'd. 518-793-0511
--Eclipse Viewers and Craft (viewing "cameras") • Drop-in 12-2 pm, tho adv. reg. req'd. •
Bring cereal/cracker-shaped box to make & take, all other supplies provided
--Reptile Profile • 2:30 pm • Resident NY native turtles & snakes • $5/adult, $1/child upon ar-rival

DeweyHall.org • Miryam Healing & Meditation Somatic Unification • 4:30 pm

4 Thurs *cont'd.*

Barn
--Mary-Alice Daniel & Cindy Juyoung Ok in Convo w/Michael Dumanis • 12:30-1:30 pm • CA-PA Symposium

BattenkillBooks.com • Fiction Book Club: "Night of the Living Rez" (Morgan Talty) • 6:30 pm

Williams.edu • Dr. Peter Hoeyng: "Back to the Future: Two anti-Racist Novels from Austria's 1920s" • 7-8:15 pm • Griffin Hall

misc.

parks.ny.gov/moreau • $1/child upon arrival • Adv. reg. reqd.: 518-793-0511
--Birds of Play • 10 am • younger children
--Earth Day Experiments: Storm Runoff, Oil Spill Clean-up, & Slime Making • 1 pm • Dress for mess!

THEATER LISTINGS

'62 Center for Theatre and Dance • 1000 Main St., Williamstown, MA • 413-597-4808 • 62center.Williams.edu
• "Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812" • Apr. 25-27 • 7:30-9 pm

Bridge Street Players • 44 West Bridge St., Catskill, NY • bridgest.org
• "The Glass Menagerie" • Apr. 4-13 • Apr. 4 "Pay What You Will" preview
• Thu.-Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., Apr. 7 & Sat. Apr. 13, 2 pm

BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • Colonial Theatre • 111 South St., Pittsfield, MA • 413-997-4444
• "Disney Frozen JR." • Apr. 19-21 • Fri., 7 pm; Sat., 12 & 5 pm; Sun., 12 pm

Dorset Players.org • 104 Cheney Rd., Dorset, VT • 802-867-5570
• "Rabbit Hole," by David Lindsay-Abaire • Apr. 5-13 • Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm

FortSalem.com • 11 East Broadway, Salem, NY • 518-854-9200
• "Into the Woods" • Apr. 5-14 • Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm
• "Beethoven: Live In Concert" • Apr. 19-21 • Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm

GhentPlayhouse.org • 6 Town Hall Place, Ghent, NY • Tickets online ONLY • 518-392-6264
• "The Bridges of Madison County" (musical) • Apr. 12-28 • Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm • Tickets online ONLY at URL

Charles R. Wood Theater • WoodTheater.org • 207 Glen St., Glens Falls, NY • 518-480-4878 • boxoffice@woodtheater.org
• "Finding Nemo JR" • Apr. 18-21 • Thu. & Fri., 7 pm; Sat. & Sun., 2 pm
• "Snoopy! the Musical" • Apr. 26-27 • Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 2 & 7:30 pm

Taconic Stage Company • 628 Empire Rd., Copake, NY • Free, but reservations REQUIRED at www.copakegrange.org
• "Your Town" • Apr. 5-7 • Fri. & Sat., 7 pm; Sat. & Sun., 2 pm

WAMTheatre.org • The Foundry, West Stockbridge, MA
• "Far, Far Better Things" • Apr. 7, 2 pm LIVE • Apr. 13 & 14, online

Arts & Culture

The Calendar April 2024

Thurs 25

CaffeLena.org
--Slow Jam: Folk, Bluegrass, & More! • 1 pm
--Máire ní Chathasaigh & Chris Newman • 7 pm

Folklife Center Concert
• Ukrainian Village Voices • Crandall Public Lib. • Free • 6:30 pm doors/7 pm showtime

• '62 Center for Theatre and Dance

ImagesCinema.org • "Songs of Earth" • "Manzanar, Diverted" • 7 pm

Bennington.edu • Poetry: Mónica de la Torre & Courtney Faye Taylor in Convo w/ Michael Dumanis • 12:30-1:30 pm • CAPA Symposium

ClarkArt.edu • Warner Friedman w/ 2023 short "Warner Friedman: A Postmodern Journey" • 6 pm

BattenkillBooks.com • Poetry Night • 6:30 pm

NextStageArts.org • Tim Medland's "We Tried to Warn You! Environmental Crisis Posters, 1870-2020" • 7 pm

misc.

parks.ny.gov/moreau • Adv. reg.: 518-793-0511
--Beaver Walk • 10 am • Wetlands Walk & Mud Pond trails • easy-moderate, abt. 2.5 miles • $1/child, $5/adult upon arrival
--Arbor Day Native Tree Planting • Free • 1 pm • Get-dirty-clothes, closed-toe shoes

Fri 26

CaffeLena.org
--Captain Fun Lunchtime Listening Hour w/Tom Dimopoulos • 12 pm
--Vanessa Collier • 8 pm

SalemCourthouse.org • Folklife Concert w/Ukrainian Village Voices • Free • 6:30 pm doors/7 pm showtime

ClarkArt.edu • Myriam Gendron & P.G. Six • 7 pm • $10

atUPH.org • Shawn Colvin & KT Tunstall • 7:30 pm

DeweyHall.org • Biodanza: Invitation to cultivate the Art of Vivencia • 6:30 pm

• '62 Center for Theatre and Dance
• Charles R. Wood Theater
• GhentPlayhouse.org

ParkTheaterGF.com • Comedy After Dark: Shafi Hossain • 8 p

StoneValleyArts.org • Literary Open Mic • 7-9 pm

misc.

parks.ny.gov/moreau
--Wiggly Wanderers • See Apr. 5
--Arbor Day Tree I.D. Walk • 11:30 am • $5/person upon arrival • Adv. res. req'd.: 518-793-0511

GildedAge.org • Berk-Chique! fundraiser • First Dibs Party • 6:30-8:30 pm • Ticket req'd.

Sat 27

CaffeLena.org
--Skidmore Songwriters • 3 pm
--The Clements Brothers w/ opener Hildaland • 8 pm

atUPH.org • Schenectady-Saratoga Symphony Orchestra: "Vestiges, Heroes and Legends" • 7 pm

BerkshireTheatreGroup.org • Pittsfield CityJazz Festival: From Rags to Rhythm to Duke Featuring: The Marcus Roberts Trio • 7:30 pm • Colonial Theatre, Pittsfield, MA

VTArtsExchange • Coffee House Jazz, feat. Matt Steckler, Eugene Uman, Dave Picchi, Jon Fisher • See details Apr. 13

DeweyHall.org • Shefield Contra Dance • 6 pm

• '62 Center for Theatre and Dance
• Charles R. Wood Theater
• GhentPlayhouse.org

misc.

Independent Bookstore Day!

SustainableSaratoga.org • Tree Toga, an Urban Forestry Project • 9:30 am • Bare-root tree planting, then plant large-growing shade trees

GildedAge.org • Berk-Chique! Pop-up Fashion Re-Sale Fundraiser • 10 am-4 pm • Free

WashingtonCountyFiberTour.org • 10 am-4 pm • See map at URL

5 Friday *cont'd.*

am
--In-person preview • 5-7:30 pm

parks.ny.gov/moreau • Qs & Adv. reg. req'd (eagles): 518-793-0511
--Eagle Watch • 8:30 am • Convoy-style journey along Hudson River, in & out of vehicles • BYOBinoculars, hat, & gloves • $5 upon arrival
--Wiggly Wanderers • 9:30 am • Beginner's hike/wander for walking toddlers, carri-able/wearable babies & caregivers • No strollers • Meet: nature center parking lot • $1/child

20 Sat *cont'd.*

sustainablesaratoga.org for locations to help

ChapmanMuseum.org • Book Sale • 10 am-4 pm

parks.ny.gov/moreau • Earth Day Recycle Craft • Free • Drop in • 11 am-1 pm

WoodTheater.org • GlensFalls Brewfest • 4-7 pm

GildedAge.org • Ghost Tour • 8 pm • Reg. req'd.

23 Tues *cont'd.*

trailhead • $5/hiker
--Hiking Preparedness (pack, 1st aid, leave no trace ethics) • 5:30 pm • $5/adult, $1/child
--Full Moon Hike • 7 pm • Beginner, family-friendly & well-behaved dogs on ≤6 ft leash • $5/adult, $1/child upon arrival • Reg. EARLY. Sells out quickly.

ClarkArt.edu • Foraging Walk • Free • 4 pm Adv. reg. REQ'D. at URL

DeweyHall.org • Miryam • See Apr. 2

6 Saturday *cont'd.*

"What is a Solar Eclipse?" • 10 am • Reg. at 518-851-7120

ClarkArt.edu • Artists' Books Day
--Demos (paper- and book-making) & Book Display • 1-4 pm
--Alexandra J. Gold, feat. "When Artists Meet Poets: An Artists' Book Talk & Live Reading" • 4 pm

ArtOmi.org • Writers Reading • 5-6 pm

misc.

WMMGA.org • Berkshire Garden Symp. "Spring Into Gardening" • 8 am-12 pm • Lenox Mem. M & HS, 197 East St., Lenox, MA

Adirondacon.com • ADK Tabletop [Gaming] Day: "Springadune The Dice Must Flow!" • 9:30 am-10 pm • Purchase tickets: WoodTheater.org, Glens Falls, NY

BenningtonMuseum.org
--Reopening Day • 10 am-4 pm
--Antiques Appraisal Fair • 1-4 pm

SalemCourthouse.org • Washington Co. Repair Café • 1-4 pm • 58 Broadway, Salem, NY

GildedAge.org • Ghost Tour • 8 pm • Reg. req'd.

Saratoga book fest to host 'Masters of the Air' author

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y.

The Friends of the Saratoga Springs Public Library's Saratoga Book Festival, in partnership with Literary Arts@SPAC and the Saratoga County Veterans Peer Connection program, will present "Masters of the Air: An Evening with Donald L. Miller," the historian and bestselling author of "Masters of the Air: America's Bomber Boys Who Fought the Air War Against Nazi Germany," at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 30, at the Spa Little Theater.

The inspiration for the Apple TV streaming series "Masters of the Air," the book tells the gripping story of the American Eighth Air Force in World War II and the young pilots who flew the bombers that helped beat the Nazis and liberate Europe. The series is produced by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg, the legendary pair behind "Band of Brothers" and "The Pacific."

Tickets and copies of the book are available at saratogabookfestival.org.

Exhibitions *continued from page 19*

ShakerMuseum.us • Chatham, NY • 518-794-9100
• through Apr. 28: "Palm to Poplar: Devotional Labor" • The Kinderhook Knitting Mill, 8 Hudson St.

SohnFineArt.com • 69 Church St., Lenox, MA • 413-551-7353
• through Apr. 29: "Salon d'Hiver"

Southern Vermont Arts Center • 930 SVAC Dr., Manchester • 802-362-1405 • www.svac.org
• through Apr. 21: "Voices" & "Portraits in Red"
• through Apr. 21: "For the Love of Vermont"
• through Jul 14: Spring 2024 Solo Exhibition
• Apr. 27-May 26: Art from the Schools 2024

SusanEleyFineArt.com • 433 Warren St., Hudson, NY
• through Apr. 6: Enchantments: Ode to New Mexico (Carole Eisner, Margaret Fitzgerald & Michael Wright)
• Apr. 4-May 12: "Talking Threads"
• Apr. 11-May 25: "Femme" (Angela A'Court, Charles Buckley, Deirdre O'Connell, Deborah Freedman, Miriam Hitchcock, Ruth Shively, Jan Testori-Markman, Ulla Scheinermann)

Tang.skidmore.edu
• through May 5: Elevator Music 48: Alone, only in Flesh & Hyde Cabinet #24: Boyhood
• through May 19: "Isaac Julien: Lessons of the Hour"
• through Jun. 9: "Studio/Archive" (over 15 artists)
• through Sep. 7, 2025: Yvette Molina "A Promise to the Leaves" (evolving installation centered around earth, air, water, fire, & the cosmos)

ValleyArtisansMarket.com • 25 E. Main St., Cambridge, NY
• through Apr. 8: Anping Liu, Character in Nature
• Apr. 12-May 6: Kendra Farstad, Mostly About the Bees

Suzanne Lemberg Usdan Gallery • One College Dr., Bennington, VT • 802-440-4547 • Tue.-Sat., 1-5 pm
• through Apr. 27: "Milford Graves: A Mind-Body Deal"

WorldChildrensMuseum.org • 89 Warren St., Glens Falls, NY
• Cultural Exhibits: ¡Hola, Mexico! • Thailand: Beauty and Beasts • World Music • Home & Family Life • World Fashion • Dragon Boat Race

HCO

creative Custom WOODCRAFT

5045 State Route 7
Hoosick Falls, NY
Phone: 518-686-0934
Hours: Monday - Friday:10-5,
Saturday:10-4, Sunday: Closed



Dear Friends, Neighbors & Customers,



This is a personal invitation for you to attend Creative Custom Woodcraft's **Spring OPEN HOUSE planned for Saturday, April 27, 2024 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.** We plan to have a tent set up with ***FREE Pancakes and Sausage and Homemade Baked Goods***(food is from 9 am till 2 pm). Come rain or shine! Please forward this invitation to your friends, family & neighbors also.

We are stocked with large quantities of no-maintenance Poly Outdoor Furniture. We have approx 2,500 Poly Outdoor Furniture items in stock and ready to go in 25 different colors! **Folding Adirondack Chairs, Patio Chairs, Bistro Chairs, Rockers, Gliders, Benches, Dining Tables, and more!!! All of our Poly Furniture comes with a 20 year warranty.**

OPEN HOUSE SPECIALS!

- **SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024- Pancakes & Sausage along with Homemade Baked Goods. (9:00 am to 2:00 pm).**
- **FREE PINT OF VT MAPLE SYRUP-with each Outdoor or Indoor Furniture item that is purchased. No limit on quantities. (Example: Buy 6 Adirondack Chairs-get 6 FREE pints of VT Maple Syrups).**
- **FREE CHOICE OF CUTTING BOARD OR LAZY SUSAN – with minimum $2,000 purchase. *Limit-one per customer.**
- **As always – we have special pricing on all in-stock outdoor furniture! Approximately 2,500 Outdoor pieces in stock!!**
- **During our open house-also receive our special in-stock pricing on Outdoor Furniture orders placed for specific colors/ items that we do not have in stock.**

Also all of our display model indoor furniture in our showroom is available for purchase off the floor at a 5% savings-available to go immediately if needed.

Looking forward to seeing you at our OPEN HOUSE!!! Jason Reinford, Brian Boll, Jerry Champ, Gardell Boll, Thomas Seagrove III, Carlos Reinford & Andy Reinford. **Text requests for photos and info to Jason's cell at 802-282-2232.**

Creative Custom Woodcraft
5045 State Route 7
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090
518-686-0934

Hours: Monday - Friday:10-5,
Saturday:10-4, Sunday: Closed